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January 1984

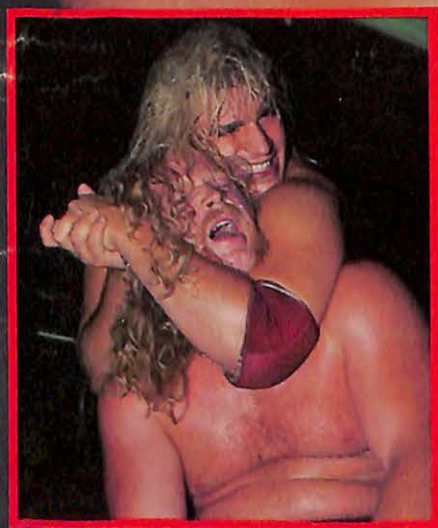
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Wrestling

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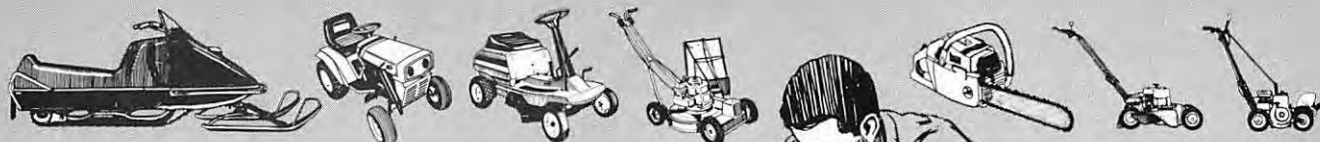
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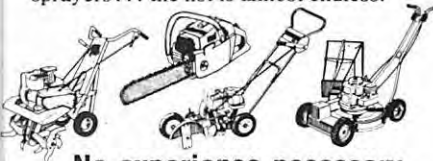
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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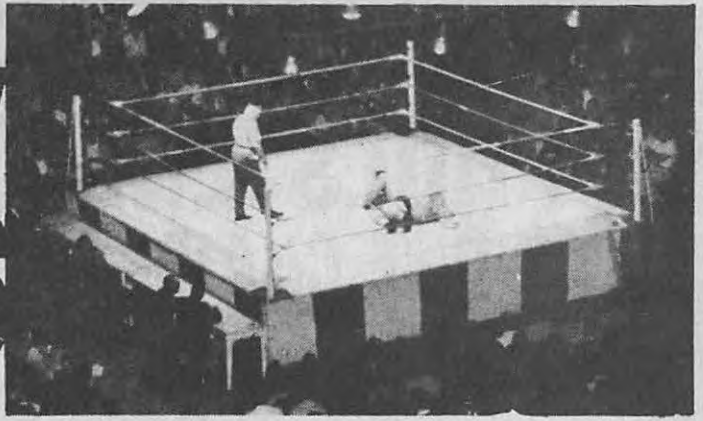
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SINCERELY YOURS

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SNUKA'S RIGHT

I want to thank everyone at *Inside Wrestling* responsible for bringing Capt. Lou Albano and Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka together over the Picturephone to argue their differences in the November 1983 issue ("One on One").

Jimmy is right; Muraco deserved

what he had coming to him. My only wish is that Jimmy had done even more damage to Muraco, maybe placed him in the hospital. I can't wait to see Snuka pound Muraco into dust and take the WWF Intercontinental belt away from him once and for all.

As for Albano, everything he

had to say to Snuka only proved to me that he's a complete idiot. Albano claims that Buddy Rogers has weakened Snuka—that's ridiculous! Rogers has made Snuka into a better man than ever before. Everyone respects Snuka now, but you can bet that they wouldn't if it wasn't for Buddy Rogers.

Rave on, Albano, rave on. And while you rave, just watch Jimmy make wrestling history. Then eat your heart out at the fact that you were too stupid to know how to manage him properly.

DELBERT SKINNER
Cape Cod, MA

DEFENDING THE DOG

I'm writing to comment on a letter ("Temporary Friends") by Reginald E. Goings printed in the
(Continued on page 50)



Above: Jimmy Snuka has become a far better wrestler since dumping Capt. Lou Albano and taking on Buddy Rogers as his manager, writes Delbert Skinner. Right: Junkyard Dog was not responsible for his feuds with Ted DiBiase, Mr. Olympia, and Butch Reed, in the view of reader Doris Anderson.



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

"Time!" Rocky Johnson yelled. Tony Atlas replaced the barbell on the brace and exhaled a lungful of air. Seeing his friend looking so exhausted, Rocky laughed. "C'mon," he said, "one more set. Let's go! You claim you're in shape? Just look how tired you are."

I thought Atlas would laugh at his friend's joke, but he just nodded seriously. Tony lied down on the bench again, took the barbell off the brace, and pressed it 10 times in less than 10 seconds.

A few minutes later, I asked Rocky about his and Atlas' training regimen. I wondered if all that preparation was really necessary. After all, there are many successful wrestlers who never step inside a gym.

"Tony and I push each other to excellence," Johnson said. "It would be very easy to let things slide. It looks like neither me or Tony is gonna get a shot at the WWF title. So you start to think, Well, if I'm not gonna get a shot at the best, why push myself so hard?"

Recently, Atlas and Johnson have been tag teaming in the Northeast. Their goal seems to be the WWF tag team championship. But Atlas and Johnson, although optimistic about their chances of winning the belts from The Samoans, seem less than enthusiastic about being tag team wrestlers.

"I'd be lying if I said we'd rather team than go after solo titles," Johnson said. "But wrestling has its share of politics, and Tony and me feel that teaming is a good move—for now. By teaming, we can train together and keep in top shape . . . just in case."

Just in case of what? I wondered. "Just in case one of us gets a title shot," Johnson said. "If that shot comes, we'd better be ready. Because if that first one is so hard to get, the second will be impossible."

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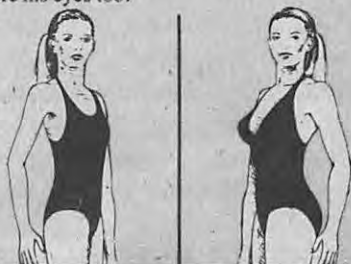
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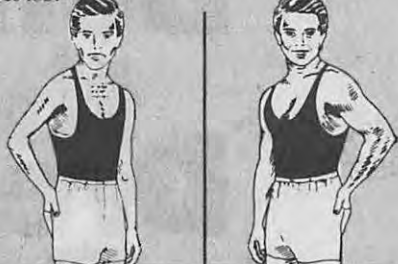
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Body Builder-P is used to gain weight (not fat) and build body mass as part of the exercise program of champion bodybuilders. Imagine what it will do for you, whether you need curves or muscles.

This high powered natural food supplement contains rich protein, concentrated and fortified with 12 vitamins and 7 minerals, as well as all 8 essential amino acids. It blends into a delicious shake with juice or milk. And, it gives you added energy and leaves you feeling great!

You'll be amazed! This incredible formula goes to work immediately. Start to see results **THE VERY FIRST DAY!** In just a few days, you'll be looking at yourself in the mirror and you'll start to understand the incredible power of **Body Builder-P!** Then you'll get on the scale and realize that you've added pounds and pounds of impressive, attractive flesh.

So, don't wait even one more minute. Order your **Body Builder-P** NOW! If for any reason you're not 100% satisfied, simply return the unused portion within 30 days for a prompt refund (less p&h, of course), **NO QUESTIONS ASKED!** Don't delay. Mail in the coupon today!

MEN—If you picked the handsome, manly body, but right now you look like a skinny weakling, **Body Builder-P** will make you the man you want to be!

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Yes, I want to gain weight fast! Rush my **Body Builder-P** as indicated below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I can return the unused portion within 30 days for a prompt refund, **NO QUESTIONS ASKED!** My check or M.O. is enclosed (NY residents add sales tax)

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☐ #9282, 14 day supply of **Body Builder-P** at \$21.95 + \$2.65 p&h (Total: \$24.60)
☐ #9283, 21 day supply of **Body Builder-P** at \$29.95 + \$2.95 p&h (Total: \$32.90)

Mr. Mrs.

Miss Ms.

Address _____

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State _____

Zip _____

☐ M.C. ☐ VISA (min. \$20) Expir. date _____

Account # _____

TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **Stu
Saks**

HIS FACE DOESN'T look like it did 5½ years ago when he became WWF champion. It has aged perhaps 10 years in that time. The eyes, once bright with enthusiasm, are now cold and steely. They don't look at the sport of wrestling the way they once did.

Being WWF champion doesn't mean the same thing to Bob Backlund as it did in February 1978 when he first captured the title from Superstar Graham. February 1978 was a time for the young Minnesotan to be idealistic. He looked to the future and saw nothing but good times ahead. He had realized his lifelong dream of becoming a major wrestling champion. He told us he would be a fair champion, an honest champion, an active champion. He would hand his title over to any man who could prove himself superior, but he warned his would-be challengers that he would not easily relinquish that which he had worked so hard to gain. The WWF title would be defended as if it were a member of his beloved family.

If Backlund gave the appearance of caring more about the reputation of his title than he did about the personal glory of possessing the title, it was because he did. Backlund has never viewed the WWF title as being his. It belonged to the ages and he was just borrowing it. What the title had come to mean in the 15 years of its existence was not something Backlund would ever spoil. He owed it to men like Buddy Rogers, Bruno Sammartino, Pedro Morales, and even Ivan Koloff, Stan Stasiak, and Superstar Graham to maintain the prestige of a championship they had proudly defended before him. It was an awesome responsibility, but one that he was willing—and quali-

(Continued on page 54)

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do... go wherever you wish... do whatever you wish... without being detected... watch the antics of others behind closed doors... hear private conversations... make time run forward or backward... read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror"... find out what really happened in history... make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the behavior of others, raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you literally life and death control over other people! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be the Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, mansions, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER...

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
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- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RETIRE FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

FREE... The Witches Protection Amulet For Just Examining The Witch Book...

When you receive your copy of THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, we will send you the witches protection pentagon amulet (See p. 26) that will protect you from evil. Whether you keep the book or not, this handsome, powerful amulet is yours as a gift. So send in this no-risk coupon right now!



Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

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EVERYBODY SEEMS TO have had his say regarding Playboy Buddy Rose's recent acceptance as a fan favorite.

In the November 1983 issue of this magazine, Joseph Bua interviewed Rose's former manager, The Grand Wizard, in "The Insider" column. In the December 1983 issue of our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Liz Hunter devoted her "On Assignment" column to Rose's recent activities in the Pacific Northwest.

From Editor-in-Chief Peter King to Matt Brock, everyone has expressed his opinion on Playboy Buddy Rose.

Well, almost everyone.

I decided to join Matt Brock for a few days in Portland, Oregon, to find out the opinions of an important group of individuals, a group of men whose opinions have yet to be heard: Rose's fellow wrestlers in the Pacific Northwest. I felt it would be interesting to speak to these men several months after Rose's emergence as a fan favorite, to learn how they feel about one of the most publicized changes of personality in a wrestler in several years.

What follows are excerpts of my conversations with Curt Hennig, Dynamite Kid, Rip Oliver, The Assassin, and Billy Jack.



Curt Hennig

Curt Hennig: "Quite frankly, I'm very happy that Buddy and Dynamite Kid and his crew had a falling out. I never really felt that Buddy had it in him to accept the hatred of the fans, and I guess he finally realized that as well. I don't mind telling you, when The Assassin and

Rip Oliver joined in with Dynamite Kid and started attacking Rose, I felt kind of good about it. You know, it's kind of like watching a bunch of thieves argue over how to split the loot; you just sit back and laugh to yourself. But when Rose came out of the attack bleeding like a stuck pig, I got a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. I had to help him. Now, a couple of months later, I'm glad I did. He's become a good friend in a short time."

Dynamite Kid: "That fat slob! It's all his fault, he's the one who screwed up our finishing move against Curt Hennig and Billy Jack. I'll never forget that night. It was so easy, it was so simple. He didn't have to work that hard, but no—his fat

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

stomach got in the way. Idiot! He's only buying himself some time right now, I'll tell you that. He may have a bunch of goody-two-shoe fools like Hennig and Jack watching his back for him, but that won't last long. Now that I'm Pacific Northwest heavyweight champion, I'm going to give all the title shots to Rose that he wants. I can't wait to get him in the ring one-on-one again!"

Rip Oliver: "I really don't worry myself about Rose. Hell, he's better off where he is and so am I. The Assassin and I took the Pacific Northwest tag team championship away from him and Brian Adidas, and we didn't have to work too hard to do it. Besides, this way I know where we stand with each other. He can't stand me and I can't stand him. A couple of months ago, we were tag team partners and we didn't know what the hell we thought of each other. Hell, it might have been me and Rose as a team instead of Adidas and Rose. What a horrible thought! If I had Rose for a partner, I probably wouldn't be the champion I am today!"



The Assassin

The Assassin: "It all shows how stupid Rose and Hennig and Jack are. First of all, Rose doesn't know who he wants to be. He's unstable. Does he want to be successful or does he want to pander to the fans? He has no idea.

Second, Jack and Hennig are stupid to trust Rose and believe that he's their friend. What's to prevent Rose from turning on them the way he turned on us? Bah! They're all a bunch of fools. I'm glad I don't have to associate with them. I'd rather just beat them senseless whenever the opportunity presents itself."

Billy Jack: "I can't say how happy I am that Buddy has changed for the better. It's opened up an entire new world of possibilities for him here in the Pacific Northwest, and I know the fans are just as happy about it as I am. In fact, Buddy and I have a scheduled match where we're going to team up with Andre the Giant soon in a six-man tag team match. I'm very excited about that, and I know all the fans are, too. I won't say I always knew Buddy would change his ways someday, because I didn't. But now that he has, I'm glad to call him my friend." □

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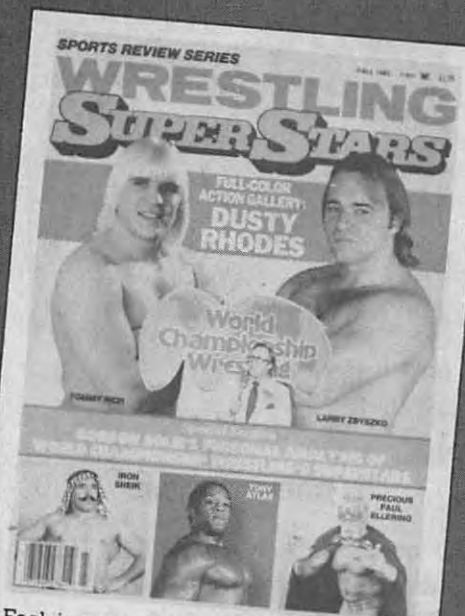
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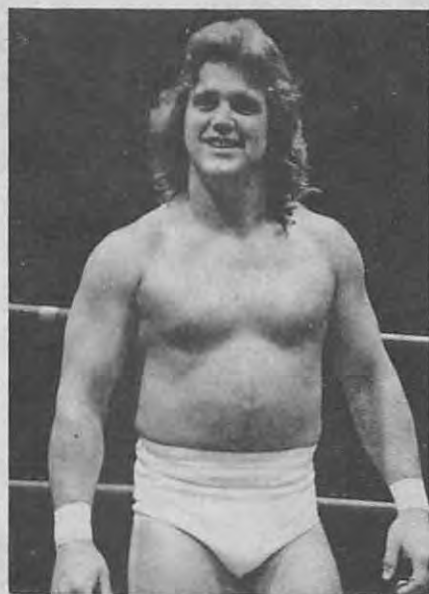
Each issue contains a spectacular full-color section highlighting peak-action photographs of one of the most popular stars in the sport.

Published quarterly

NAMES MAKI

David Von Erich is the new Missouri State champion! David won the title from **Ric Flair** in a two-out-of-three-falls confrontation in St. Louis' Kiel Auditorium, the same arena in which Flair lost the NWA title to Harley Race just a few months ago. "The clawhold was responsible for my victory," David told me in an exclusive telephone interview. "Flair just couldn't put up with the power and the pain of my claw, and that's what gave me the edge in the match." By the way, be sure to check out the feature story on page 34 regarding the possibility of the NWA banning the clawhold, and what Von Erich's reaction would be if they did.

After defeating **Larry Zbyszko** for the National heavyweight title, **Brett Wayne** held a press confer-



BRETT WAYNE

ence to publicly thank **Mr. Wrestling II**. "Wrestling II told Zbyszko that the only way he'd give him back the belt he took was to give me a title shot," Wayne said. "I told II that there would be no need

to give the belt back to a former champion and that's exactly what Zbyszko would be following our match. Mr. Wrestling II gladly gave me the belt, and I give him my thanks."

Mike Rotondo is elated following his sensational defeat of Southern champion **Ron Bass**. "No one



MIKE ROTONDO

really considered me a threat to his title because I'd only been in Florida for a few weeks," he said. "Bass and **James J. Dillon** are outraged, and I love it!" ... **Gary Hart** has signed a contract with **Baron Von Raschke** for clawhold master to wrestle for him in the Mid-Atlantic region ... **Scott McGhee** is in the Carolinas preparing to challenge U.S. champion **Greg Valentine** ... Montreal fans recently witnessed a wild six-man tag team match in which **Andre the Giant**, **Hulk Hogan**, and **Dino Bravo** defeated **Ken Patera**, **Blackjack Mulligan**, and **Masked Superstar**.

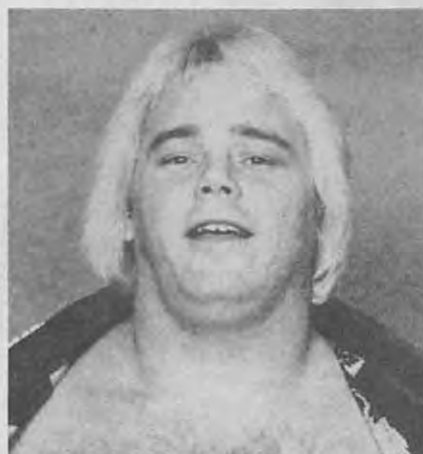
Bruno Sammartino, along with dozens of great sports stars includ-

ing **Willie Mays**, **Bobby Riggs**, **Tom Seaver**, and **Phil Esposito**, will be honored at an Atlantic City banquet sponsored by the *Greatest Sports Legends* syndicated television show ... **Lucifer** was unmasked by **The Midnight Rider** in Florida and discovered to be **Kevin Sullivan**. As a result, Sullivan has been ousted



LUCIFER

from the Sunshine State for a full year. Sullivan and **The Purple Haze** have gone to the Carolinas ... **Buddy Rose** failed recently in his bid to win the Pacific Northwest



BUDDY ROSE

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

title from **The Dynamite Kid** in Salem, Oregon, when the two were disqualified for excessive fighting outside the ring. Rose and partner **Brian Adidas** have lost the Pacific Northwest tag team title to former champions **Rip Oliver** and **The Assassin**.

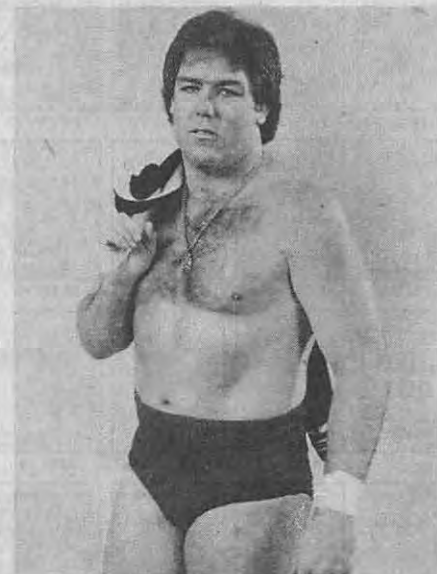
Jesse Ventura has come to Tennessee to silence self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling" **Jerry Lawler**. "I don't like that man and I never did," Ventura said. "Everytime he talks, my skin crawls. And that's all he ever does—talk, talk, talk. I



JESSE VENTURA

plan to focus my attack right on that mouth of his" ... **Cesar Valentino** won the Mexican heavyweight title in front of 35,000 screaming fans in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium. The tournament for the vacant belt included so many wrestlers that three rings had to be set up and matches continued for four hours without intermission. With **Lou Thesz** acting as

special referee, **Cesar** topped **Tully Blanchard** to win the belt.



TULLY BLANCHARD

Remember when **Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie** wore a cast on his arm and used it against his opponents? Well, now Al-Kaissie is claiming that he doesn't remember using the cast. Furthermore, he's demanding that **Rick Martel** not be permitted to wrestle wearing a cast on his right arm due to injuries inflicted by **Ken Patera** and **Crusher Blackwell**. "I've already seen Martel use the cast in some of his



SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE

matches," Al-Kaissie claims. "He's a disgrace to the wrestling profession. For everyone's safety, he must be kept out of the ring until the cast comes off!"

AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel** says he did nothing illegal in his No-Disqualification Match against **Wahoo McDaniel**. Nick claimed the win after he smashed a chair over Wahoo's head and knocked him senseless. "As long as a match has a no disqualification stipulation, I can only assume that anything goes," Nick



McDANIEL VS. BOCKWINKEL

said. "Frankly, I thought my performance in that match was brilliant" ... **Mark Savage**, son of veteran **Dutch Savage**, is wrestling in the Pacific Northwest. Mark stands 6'2" and weighs 245 pounds ... **Super Destroyer** is training for his upcoming title match against NWA World champion **Harley Race** to be held in Des Moines, Iowa.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

BACK ISSUES OF INSIDE WRESTLING



INSIDE WRESTLING

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

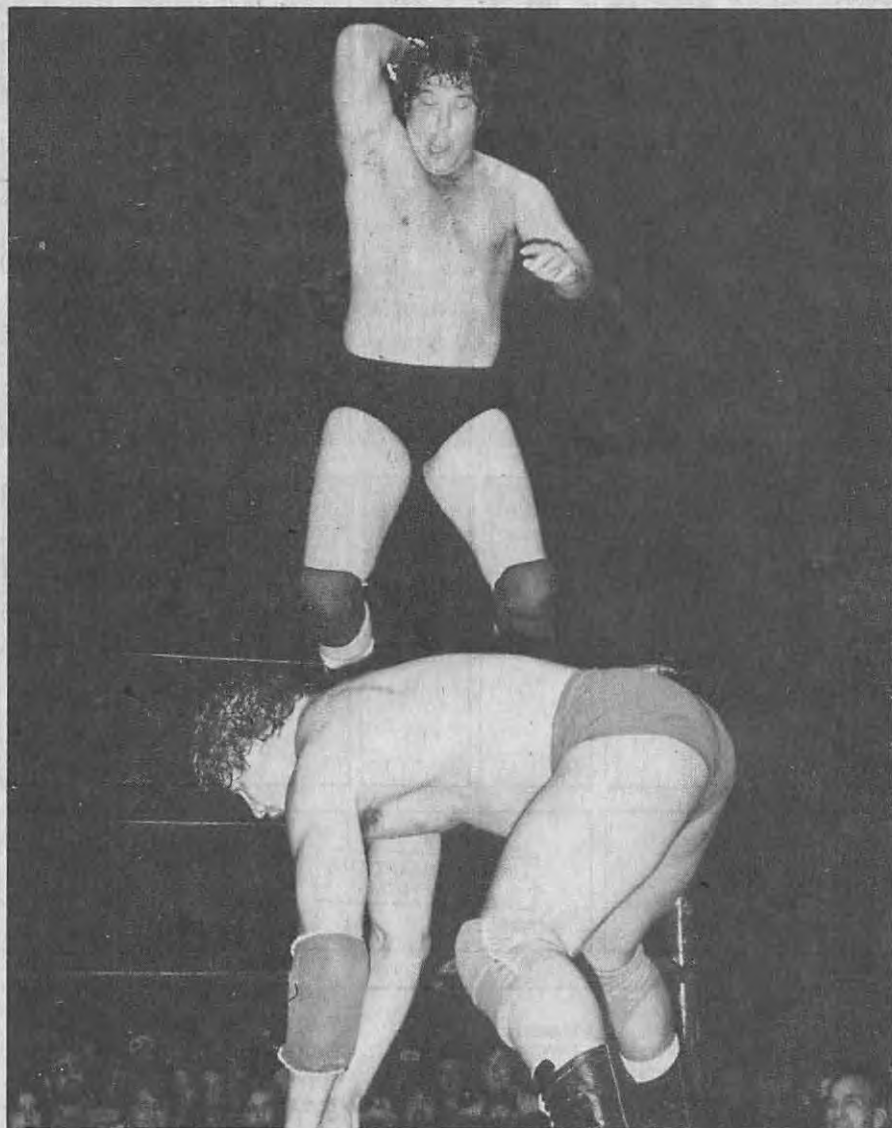
By Dan
Shocket

IT'S NO FUN being around Ted DiBiase. The man is consumed by demons I'm grateful I'll never know. Fate forced him to become a rulebreaker. There was never a man less suited for the task.

DiBiase, away from the crowds, is a silent, sad man. Most rulebreakers are by nature solitary men, never daring to get too close to anyone. Betrayal is to be expected and friendship is always suspect. Some rulebreakers compensate by behaving rudely, others tend to lapse into the ridiculous. DiBiase has no protective covering. He's overwhelmed by people's hatred. Nothing in his life ever prepared him for the lonely life of a rulebreaker. Unprepared, he suffers like no man in wrestling. It makes one wonder how long he can emotionally survive.

If there was ever a man unsuited to lead the difficult life of a rulebreaker, it's Ted DiBiase. In his youth, he was one of the golden boys. Everything in life came easy to him. Even when he had to work at something, it was something he loved and he enjoyed the toil. People flocked to him, hoping some of his magic would rub off on them. There were about 20 boys in his high school who were popular simply because they were his friend. Life was good.

When DiBiase entered wrestling, there was no doubt he'd be a fan favorite. He wasn't a great wrestler but the fans adored him. He took



Ted DiBiase leaps from the top rope to deliver an elbowsmash at a bent-over Tito Santana. Unlike most so-called rulebreakers, Ted is very deeply affected by the negative reaction of his former fans.

their adoration as his due; he was accustomed to being adored. DiBiase is the kind of guy who reveled in being a hero. He fed on cheers as if they were oxygen. The golden boy

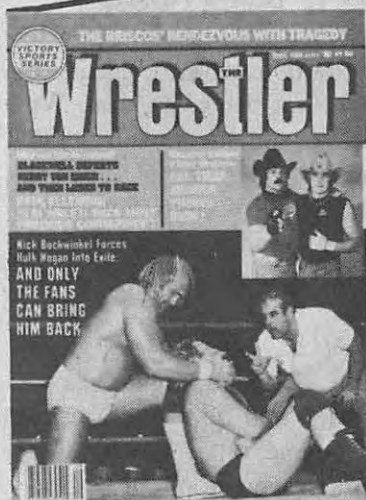
grew to a golden man.

Then it all came apart. A disagreement with another fan favorite. The fans turned on him and he
(Continued on page 56)

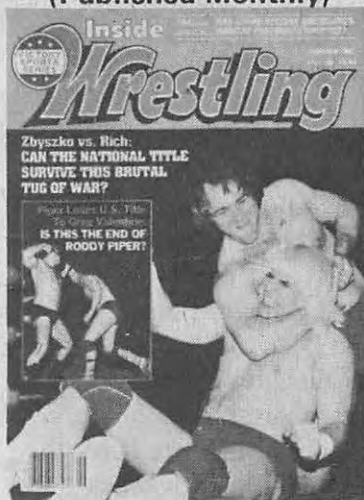
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THE

INSIDER

By Joseph Bua



Nick Patrick and Scrappy McGowan, two of the most respected referees in wrestling, are prime candidates for American Express commercials.

THE TWO MEN pictured on this page might be the most visible people in professional wrestling today, yet they are virtually unknown. Nick Patrick and Scrappy McGowan enforce the law of professional wrestling.

As referees employed by World Championship Wrestling, McGowan and Patrick are seen on national television for three hours every week, more than Valerie Bertinelli, Tom Selleck, and Cathy Lee Crosby combined. Yet they could probably walk unnoticed down any main street in America.

I sat at a table at a Howard Johnson's restaurant in Columbus, Ohio, with the two referees. We had come in with Pez Whatley and Tommy Rich, but we let them get their own table. I figured that the attention Rich and Whatley would

attract would disrupt my interview with McGowan and Patrick.

We sat there and ordered as, across the dining room, the wrestlers were entertaining a husband and wife who had been at the matches that evening. I asked Patrick and McGowan about their relative anonymity.

"It's funny in a way," Patrick said. "When we're in the ring, everyone knows who we are. Maybe not by name, maybe not by face, but they see the shirt. I think they *only* see the shirt. People will walk by me in public and they'll think they know me from somewhere. But they never seem to put the face and the name together."

"Sometimes when I'm working," McGowan said, "I'll wear a black shirt and leave the striped one in my bag. I think I blend in better,

I'm not so noticeable. I guess we don't mind not being the stars. We leave the stardom to guys like Pez and Tommy. They have a . . . I guess it's a kind of electricity about them. And anyway, it's not our place to be the stars. We're there to do a job."

"Being a referee," Patrick added, "is like being a cameraman on a movie. You don't see a cameraman's name on a movie marquee, just as you don't hear Gordon Solie telling the fans that we'll be refereeing in Chattanooga. You just do your job, and *sometimes*, you're appreciated for doing it."

"I'm not asking for roses," McGowan said, "but once in a while it would be nice to get a positive word or two. If we make a mistake, we hear about it immediately. But I can count the compliments I've gotten on the fingers of one hand."

Even though these two men don't get a great deal of positive feedback from the wrestlers, they do receive it from each other. "We watch each other work," McGowan said. "While everyone else is looking at the wrestlers, we're watching each other. When I watch Scrappy in the ring, I'm looking for him to be in the right position at the right time. That's the most important thing."

"You have to be able to spot the choke. You have to be on the canvas to count the pinfall. Scrappy is smaller than I am, but he's faster. He moves around the ring as fast as any of the wrestlers. That's what

(Continued on page 58)

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VANCOUVER, BC

By Grant Zwarych



NICK BOCKWINKEL

vs.

DAVID SHULTZ



The challenger started quickly, hammering Bockwinkel with elbows. But the champ fought back with closed-fist punches and knees to the midsection. Finally, Bockwinkel threw Shultz out of the ring and bloodied his head by ramming it into the steel ringpost. With Schultz blinded by his own blood, Bockwinkel punished him at will. The referee stopped the contest in the champion's favor.

OTHER BOUTS: Andre the Giant won a 15-man Battle Royal ... The Dynamite Kid beat Gama Singh ... Bret Hart defeated Stomper Gouldie ... Keith Hart beat Scott Ferris ... Jim Neidhar and Mr. Hito beat Cyclone Negro and The Cuban Assassin.

ODESSA, TX

By Bubba Brown



BOBBY JAGGERS

vs.

LUKE WILLIAMS



This was an Ax Handle Match: An ax handle, mounted on a pole in the corner of the ring, was available to the first man who could retrieve it. Jagers was bloodied in the opening minutes, but still managed to get to the ax handle. The Iron Sheik, however, ran into the ring and attacked Jagers before he could use the weapon. Buddy Marino, who had been injured in an earlier match, ran from the dressing room to assist Jagers, and the two cleared the ring.

OTHER BOUTS: Buddy Marino beat Tully Blanchard by disqualification ... Scott Casey and Al Perez drew with Black Gordman and The Iron Sheik ... Ali Bey drew with Coco Samoa.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

By Tom Payne



DUSTY RHODES

vs.

RON BASS



The two former friends battled in a controversial Lights Out Bullrope Match. Bass swung the bell attached to the bullrope and hit the referee, knocking him out. A second ref came into the ring and unofficially declared a pinfall for Bass. The referee of record returned, however, and the match continued. Rhodes smashed Bass with the bell and won the match.

OTHER BOUTS: Jos LeDuc defeated Barry Windham ... Blackjack Mulligan and Angelo Mosca beat The Muslims ... Kevin Sullivan beat Angelo Mosca Jr. ... Mike Graham defeated The Purple Haze.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



UNIONDALE, NY

By Anthony Vigliotti



JOHN STUDD
vs.
ANDRE THE GIANT



Andre charged at Studd at the bell and executed a series of headbutts. Studd retaliated with forearm smashes and the stunned Giant fell to one knee. Urged on by the crowd, Andre came back. He delivered another headbutt, and then, to the audience's delight, bodyslammed Studd for the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Bob Backlund beat Sgt. Slaughter by disqualification ... Rocky Johnson and Jimmy Snuka defeated The Samoans in a non-title match ... Tito Santana defeated Ivan Koloff ... Salvatore Bellomo beat Don Kernodle.

COLUMBIA, SC

By Jack L. Murphy



RODDY PIPER
vs.
GREG VALENTINE

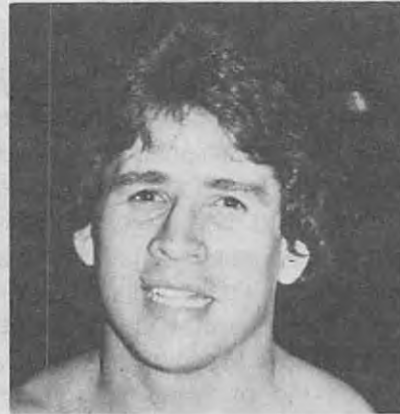


In this non-title Canadian Lumberjack Match, U.S. champion Valentine battled Piper as wrestlers with leather straps surrounded the ring to discourage escape. Dick Slater entered the ring and floored Piper with the strap, and the referee counted Piper out. Johnny Weaver alerted the ref to Slater's interference and the match continued. Piper took charge from this point, and a few minutes later was declared the victor.

OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair defeated Dick Slater by countout ... Rufus R. Jones defeated Jake Roberts ... The Assassins beat Johnny Weaver and Buggy McGraw ... Kelly Kiniski defeated Mike Davis ... Vinnie Valentino beat Bill Howard.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

By Alice Achuff



TITO SANTANA
vs.
MR. FUJI



The momentum of the match switched every few minutes. Fuji tried to blind the Mexican star with salt on a number of occasions, but Santana was clever and quick enough to evade this tactic. Tito won the bout with a high cross-bodyblock. After the bout, an enraged Fuji caught Santana with the salt and fled the ring.

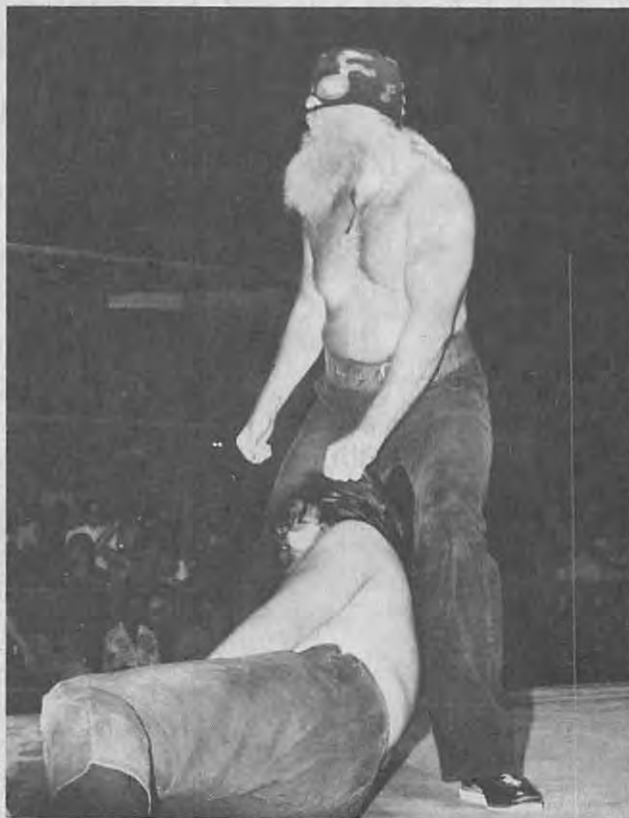
OTHER BOUTS: Bob Backlund defeated Sgt. Slaughter ... Jimmy Snuka beat Magnificent Muraco ... Tiger Chung Lee beat Tony Garea ... Ivan Putski beat George Steele ... The Invaders beat Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

ST. LOUIS, MO: Back in the days when my life was filled with self-hatred and booze, I wallowed in failure. Failure whipped my psyche relentlessly, opening fresh emotional wounds before others had the chance to heal. After a while, I welcomed failure like an enemy that would always conquer. There were weeks I'll never remember and months that I wish I could forget. Watching Ric Flair lose the Missouri title to David Von Erich reminded me of those days. Flair isn't near the bottom to which I sank, but he's getting too comfortable with defeat. He makes excuses, curses his fate, and pretends nothing is wrong with him. I can see it in his eyes, the stare that says defeat is no stranger. The loss of the NWA World title to Harley Race has affected the man more than he can admit even to himself. He hasn't been the same man since the defeat; he's shaken and scared. What he does in the next few months will mean his career. He can either come back or make losing a way of life.

CHARLOTTE, NC: History is full of instances where the world laughed at some idea only to have its inventor become a hero. History books don't bother to print the many more examples of times when the world kept laughing as the inventor proved himself a fool. After being defeated in a Loser Leave Town Match, Jim Valiant disappeared and a man named Charlie Brown arrived to take his place. No one seems to be fooled; everyone apparently assumes Brown is in fact Valiant. Some argue Jim should have left town and not bothered with this charade. I'm one of those who tend to agree. Still, if it gives Valiant a chance to get back at Kabuki and his manager, Gary Hart, I have trouble blaming Jim. Something about it sits wrong, but this isn't a perfect world. So Valiant wears a mask and calls himself Charlie Brown, Kabuki through Hart, vows to wreck the man's



VALIANT VS. KABUKI

career and we can only sit by and see whom history declares the fool.

PORTLAND, OR: There's a subconscious line of communication in any close profession. Without a formal announcement, people seem to know where things are exciting. Slowly at first, then explosively, a vitality infects a certain location and it becomes the place to be. Once that happens, those outside the community notice and the place becomes fashionable. Fashion sucks out the vitality and those who made the community move away. That's why I hesitate to write about Portland, Oregon, for wrestling here is something spe-

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

cial. I don't want it to become fashionable, because it's too exciting. Curt Hennig gave me a call and invited me up. I can't thank him enough for the invitation. Curt, Billy Jack, and the Dynamite Kid are only three of the top grapplers in the area. Now, it requires an informed intelligence to appreciate the action. As more grapplers travel to the area, there's a chance it'll become more splashy and lose its special appeal. Curt says no; the wrestlers in the area are determined to keep its special personality. I wish them luck.

TAMPA, FL: Writing about young golden boys has never been my strength; the older I get, the harder it becomes. You can blame it on cynicism, envy, experience, and probably a hundred other reasons only a psychiatrist could fathom. And now circumstance brings me to Tampa and Mike Rotondo, new young hero for a brave new age. So let's celebrate his ascension to immediate superstardom, an achievement more and more people earn after fewer and fewer accomplishments. The kid is good and on a roll. He has a chance to be great. He also has a chance to burn out; experience tells us that's the more common fate of young superstars. Why this gets me angry is that Rotondo draws attention away from veterans who've earned it. Angelo Mosca and Mike Graham have seen it happen before and take it in stride. Still it must hurt. These men have given too much to the fans to be shunted aside for a kid who may be good or only lucky.

CHICAGO, IL: Some men aren't meant to be heroes. Crowd adoration makes them nervous, forces them to be someone they're not. What made them heroes disappears and what remains is only a shell or an unfunny joke. The crowd then forgets them and all that's left is an uncertain memory. Watching Hulk Hogan unpleasantly



HULK HOGAN

brings that thought to mind. He returned to the AWA at the fans' request. There's something about him lately that reminds me of a man trapped. He seems to be trying too hard. Victory isn't enough; he strives for nobility. Hogan isn't meant to be noble. All his life, he physically towered over everyone, separating him from the throng. His very separateness contributed much to his sense of greatness. Now, as hero and leader to the fans, he is part of them. Hogan may be overwhelmed within a crowd. It's fascinating to watch his personality adapt to the change. What it means for the future only time can tell. Those who adore Hogan can only hope for the best. □



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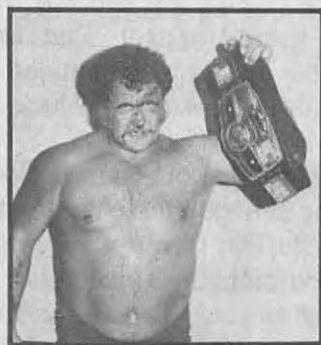
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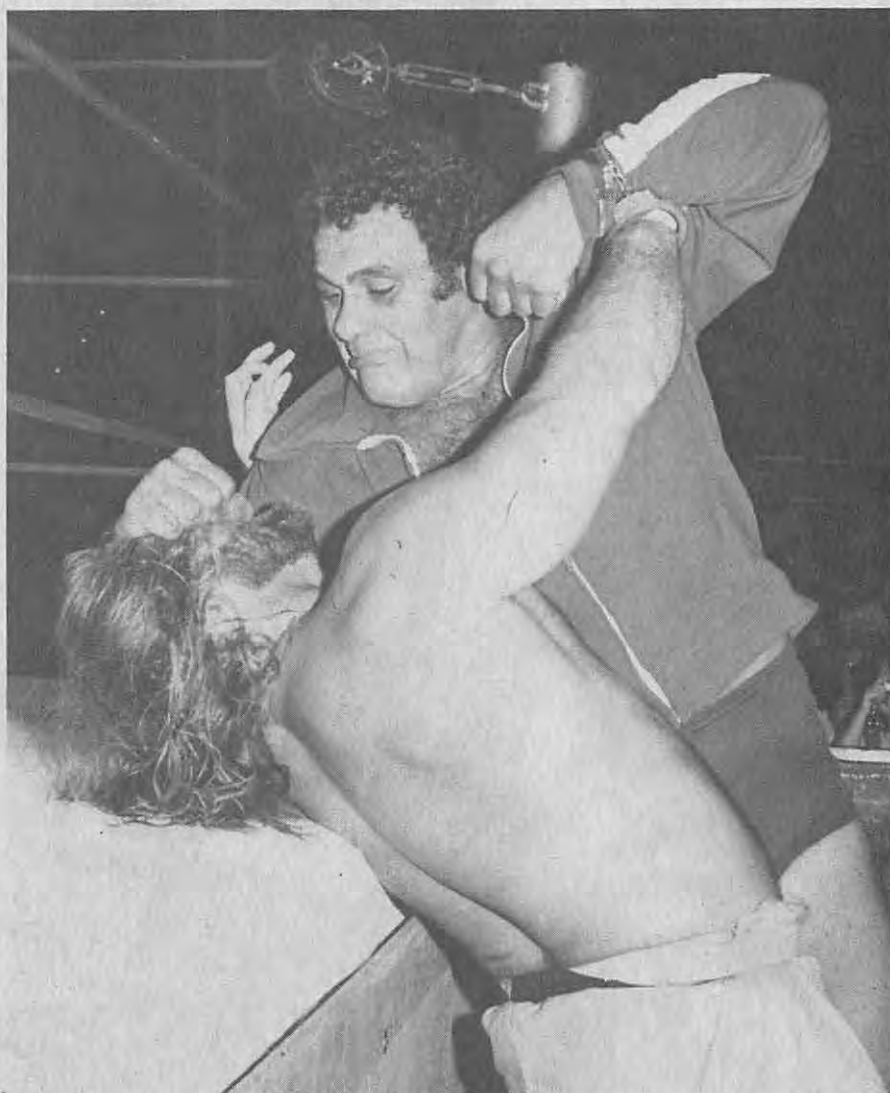
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90

capsule profile

THE MIGHTY CANADIAN once played football in the Canadian Football League ("I didn't just play football, I was the greatest!") ... Made his professional wrestling debut on New Year's Day in 1968 ("The match took place in Alberta and I vividly remember crushing Mighty Ursis into the canvas") ... Has held several major regional titles in his more than 15 years as a pro ("Georgia heavyweight title, Canadian heavyweight title, British Empire heavyweight title, you name it, I've worn it") ... For several years was known as "King Kong" Mosca ("Makes sense, right? I'm a big guy—at 6'5" they're not going to call me Fay Wray!") ... Enjoyed traveling around the world for many years, never spending too much time in one particular area of the country ("I love traveling, it's part of why I started wrestling in the first place") ... Spent time in the AWA and WWF areas from the late '70s through 1981 and received several title shots against AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel and WWF champion Bob Backlund ("I could be wearing either of those belts today, but Bockwinkel and Backlund are both champion cheaters") ... Arrived in Florida in the middle of 1982 and

ANGELO MOSCA

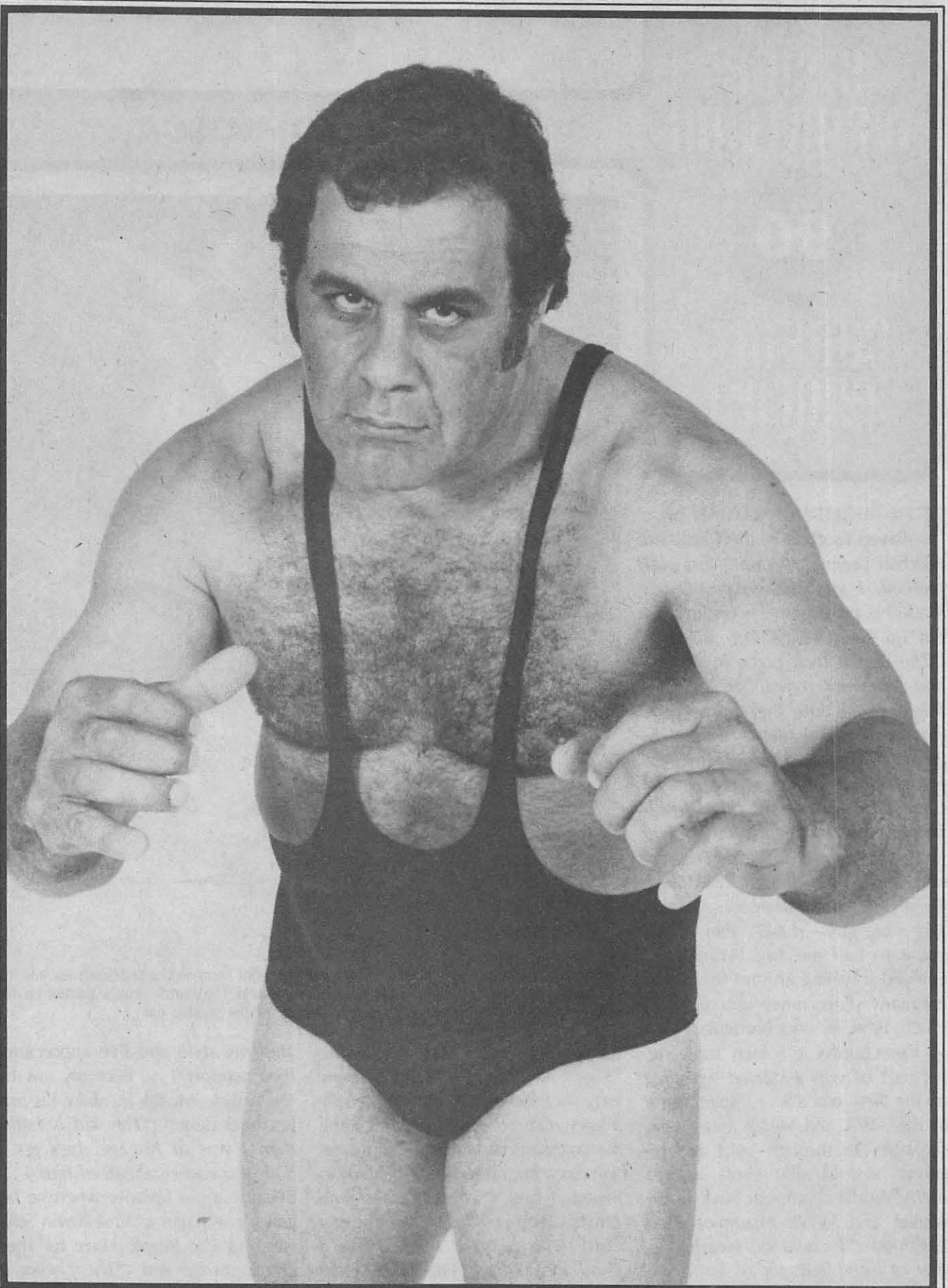


Angelo Mosca grabs Kevin Sullivan's face with his right hand and rams his left fist into his vulnerable opponent's mouth. Following Sullivan's and The Purple Haze's assault on his son, Angelo Jr., Mosca has made life miserable for the satanic pair.

quickly earned the nickname "Mean and Nasty" ("I don't know why they called me that, I'm really a very nice person") ... Under the management of James J. Dillon, began wearing a football helmet in his matches ("The referees and officials were willing to let me get away with it, so it seemed like a good idea at the time") ... Held the Canadian title until recently losing it to Sgt. Slaughter ("Canadian wrestling fans always appreci-

ated my style and I've appreciated their support") ... Recently saw his son Angelo Mosca Jr. make his professional debut ("This kid is better than I was at his age, he's got a hell of a career ahead of him") ... Became a fan favorite when he began a campaign against Kevin Sullivan and The Purple Haze for their attack on his son ("The cheers of the fans in this country are pretty new to me ... I think I like them!"). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



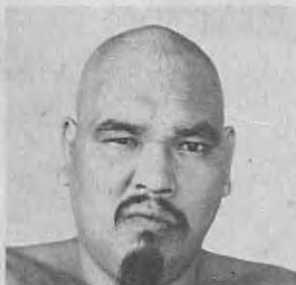
ANGELO MOSCA

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month, we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers.

LORD AL HAYS

The man who rose to international prominence as half of the superstar tag team of Lord Al Hays and "Nature Boy" Roger Kirby, and later as one of the sport's most colorful managers, is currently a commentator for televised St. Louis wrestling. "I like doing television," Lord Al told us. "It provides me with an interesting perspective on the sport that I never had before."



KILLER KHAN

Under the management of Fred Blassie, Killer Khan waged a brutal attack on Andre the Giant two years ago. After being released from Blassie's managerial grip, Khan took an extensive tour of Europe and Asia and is now wrestling in Japan. It's been reported that Blassie is negotiating to bring Khan back to the WWF area.

CYCLONE NEGRO

The exciting Cyclone Negro is teaming with the Cuban Assassin in Vancouver, British Columbia, and surrounding areas. This explosive tag team has been challenging heavily for the British Columbian International tag team belts, currently held by the team of Mr. Hito and Jim Neidhar.



DOMINIC DeNUCCI

Once one of the greatest stars of the Northeast, DeNucci is now in semiretirement. He reports that he enjoys having more free time, but he can't keep himself away from the ring entirely. DeNucci has been wrestling sporadically throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania for several small promotions. □

WHY RODDY PIPER BEAT UP JAY YOUNGBLOOD'S BROTHER

EVER SINCE HIS ear injury, Roddy Piper is never quite sure what he's hearing. When Jay Youngblood approached him, he was sure his ears were playing tricks on him.

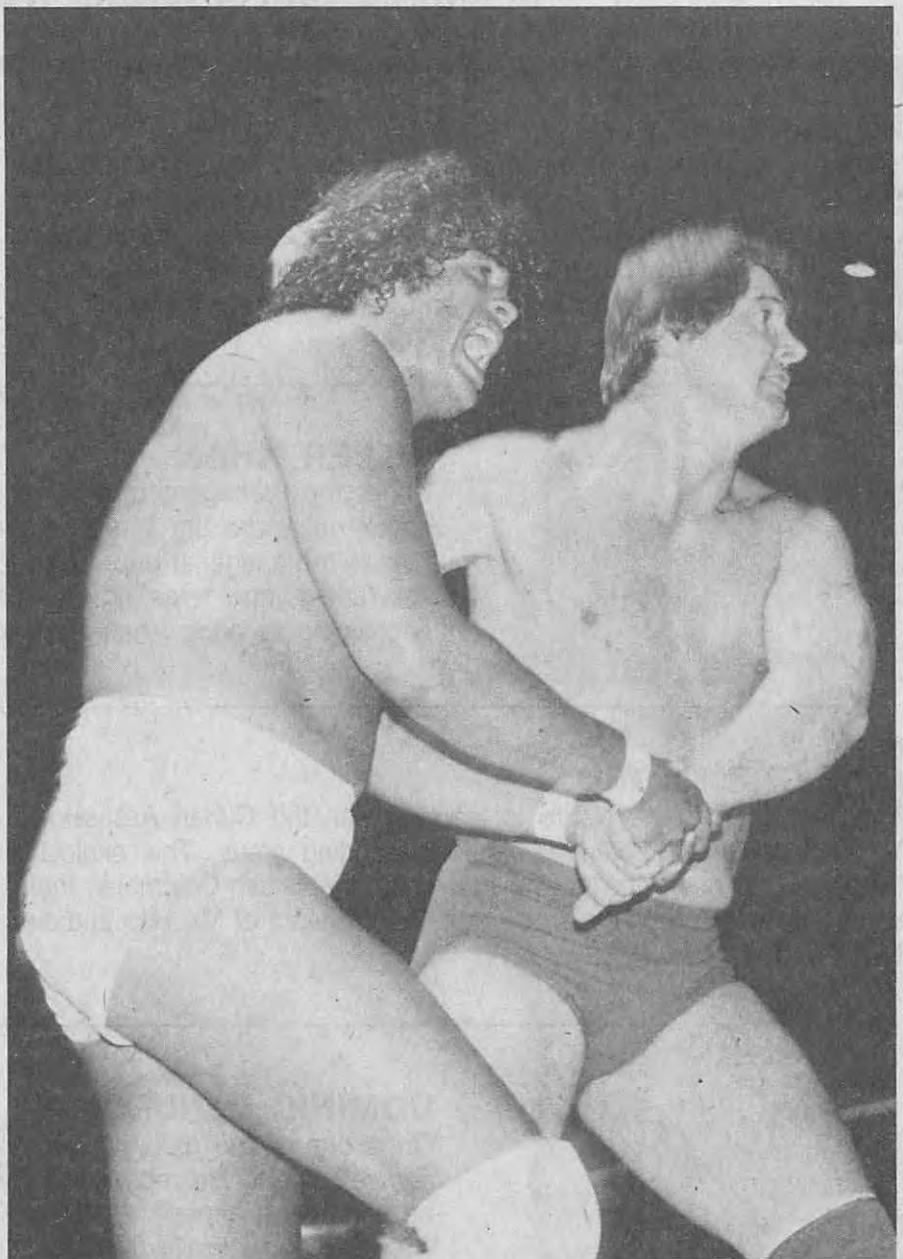
"Could you say that again?" Piper asked. "You wouldn't believe what I thought you said."

"You heard correctly," Youngblood replied, "When you wrestle in Des Moines, I want you to try to beat up my brother."

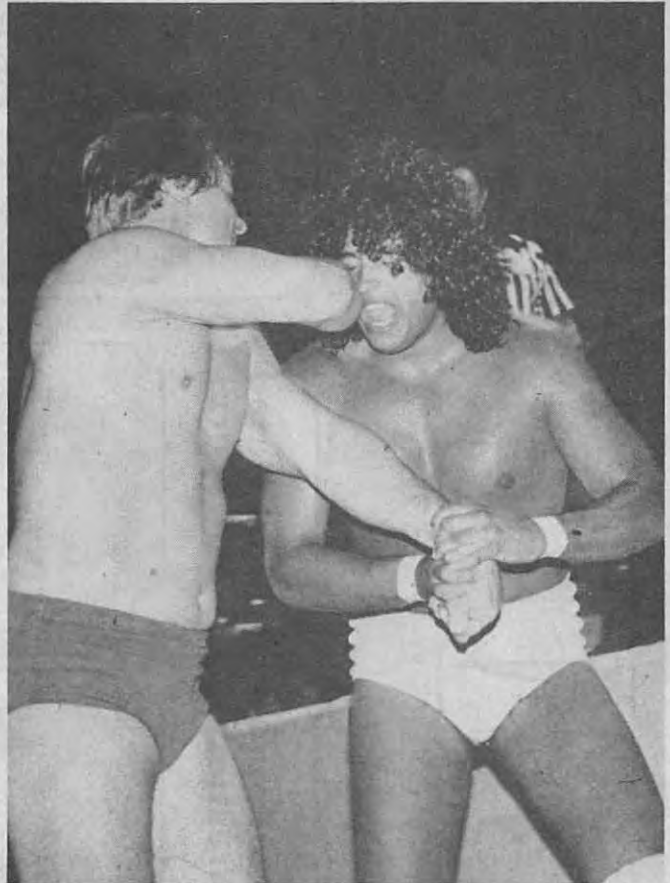
Piper smiled uncomfortably and said, "Look, I don't get involved with family quarrels. Why don't you talk it out between yourselves?"

Youngblood smiled. "You don't understand," he explained, "though there's no reason you should, come to think of it. For years, my brother has been wrestling under the name of Mark Romero. He wanted to make his name on his own. Now he says he's ready to tell the world he's my brother. He also wants to tag team with me. You know I only wrestle against top people, the kind that take an inexperienced kid and send him to the hospital. I don't want to expose my brother to that if he isn't ready. I have to know if he's ready."

"I see," Piper continued, "you want me to go to Des Moines, pull every dirty trick in the book on the kid, and see how he does."



Roddy Piper grabs Mark Romero by the hair and arms and prepares to fling him through the ropes to the concrete floor. Roddy was as tough with Romero as he's been with any other wrestler.



Piper tries to stare Romero down, but Ricky shows no fear (above left). Roddy delivers a forearm to Romero's jaw (above right). The two wrestlers test each other's strength (bottom).

For years, Mark Romero has labored to prove himself worthy of being known as Jay Youngblood's brother. Finally, he felt ready to ask his brother if they could team. Youngblood wasn't sure. To make sure, Jay had to get Roddy Piper into one of the strangest matches of Roddy's career!

Then I report back to you on what happened."

"Not every dirty trick!" Youngblood exploded. "He's only a kid!"

"If he's going to wrestle with you," Piper countered, "he'd better be grown up. The guys you face aren't known for their generosity or pity."

"Don't hurt him too much," Youngblood pleaded. "If you think he can't take it, just end the match. You have an open contract for a match in Des Moines. I checked already. All you have to do is call up and request a bout with Mark. The promoter has to agree. And Roddy, it's not like

(Continued on page 62)



INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters,
And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

National Wrestling Alliance

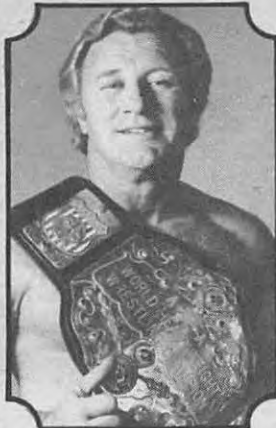


WORLD CHAMPION:
HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

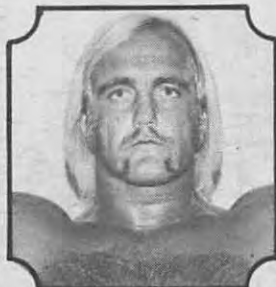


1—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

American Wrestling Association

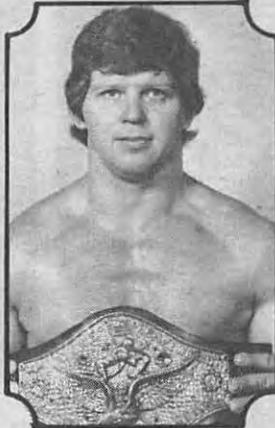


WORLD CHAMPION:
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA



1—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA

World Wrestling Federation

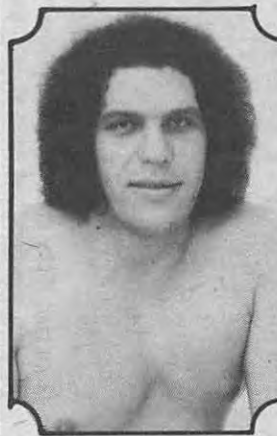


CHAMPION:
BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN



1—MASKED SUPERSTAR
282, Atlanta, GA

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France



2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

Most Hated Wrestlers

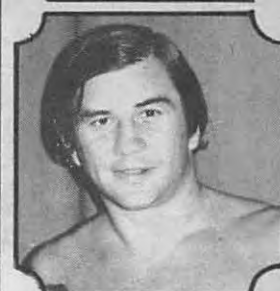


1—HACKSAW REED
249, Kansas City, MO

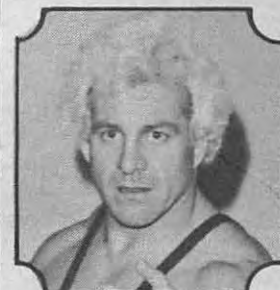


2—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX

Tag Teams



**1—JACK & JERRY
BRISCO**





2—**DAVID VON ERICH**
247, Denton, TX



3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX



4—**RUFUS R. JONES**
287, Boston, MA

5—**MIKE ROTONDO**
245, Syracuse, NY

6—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN

7—**SUPER DESTROYER**
271, parts unknown

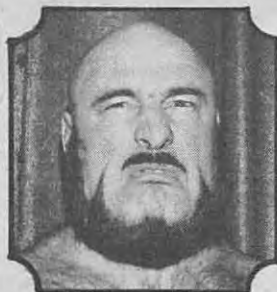
8—**MR. WRESTLING II**
232, Atlanta, GA

9—**BOB ARMSTRONG**
229, Marietta, GA

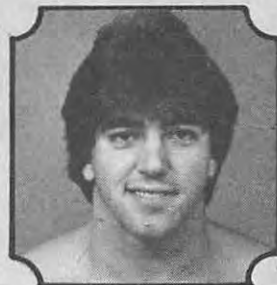
10—**CARLOS COLON**
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico



2—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Minneapolis, MN



3—**MAD DOG VACHON**
225, Algeria



4—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

5—**MR. SAITO**
247, Japan

6—**KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR

7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

8—**CRUSHER
BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA

9—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robinsdale, MN

10—**DAVID SHULTZ**
265, Memphis, TN



2—**MAGNIFICENT
MURACO**
257, Sunset Beach, HI



3—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands



4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Paris Island, SC

5—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

6—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC

7—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA

8—**ROCKY JOHNSON**
244, Washington, DC

9—**IVAN PUTSKI**
242, Krakow, Poland

10—**IRON SHEIK**
262, Iran



3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland



4—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA



5—**TOMMY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN

6—**JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands

7—**KERRY VON ERICH**
251, Denton, TX

8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX

9—**BOB BACKLUND**
242, Princeton, MN

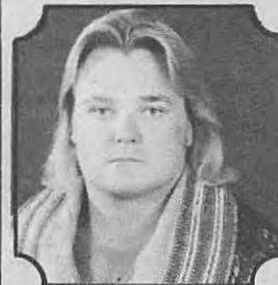
10—**SCOTT CASEY**
235, Amarillo, TX



3—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
240, Pittsburgh, PA



4—**MR. SAITO**
247, Japan



5—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA

6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE

7—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL

8—**ABDULLAH THE
BUTCHER**
360, Sudan

9—**DON MURACO**
262, Sunset Beach, HI

10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA



2—**KEN PATERA &
CRUSHER BLACKWELL**



3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**



4—**ELIJAH AKEEM &
KAREEM MUHAMMAD**

5—**TERRY ALLEN &
HACKSAW DUGGAN**

6—**THE FREEBIRDS**

7—**THE SAMOANS**

8—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN
LANE**

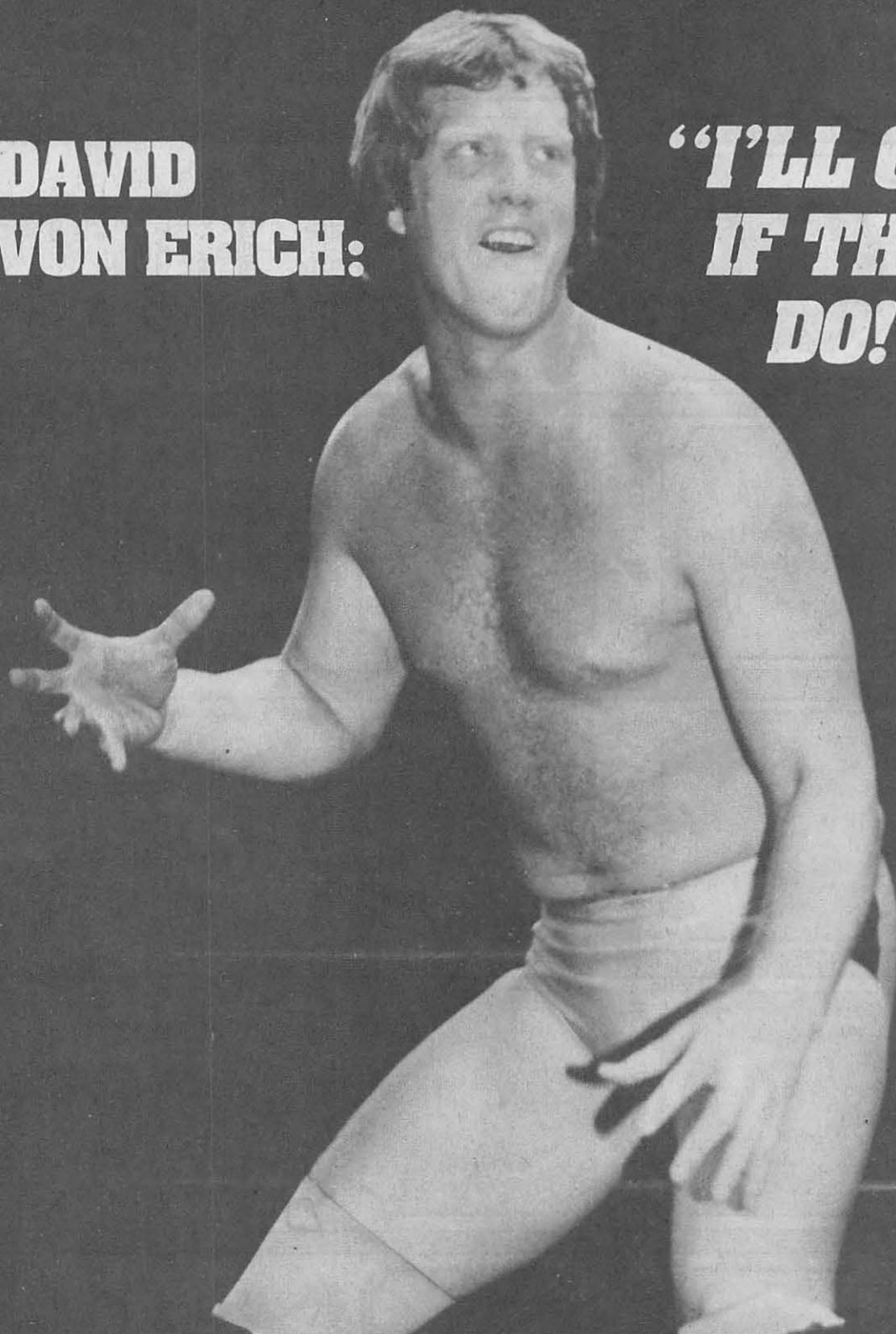
9—**THE MASKED MEDICS**

10—**BUZZ TYLER &
BULLDOG BOB
BROWN**

Will The NWA Ban The Clawhold?

**DAVID
VON ERICH:**

***“I’LL QUIT
IF THEY
DO!”***



There's a growing movement across the country and around the world to ban the dangerous, potentially crippling clawhold. If the hold is deemed to be illegal, wrestling will lose one of its brightest young stars, David Von Erich!



Von Erich draws blood from NWA champion Harley Race with his clawhold. Should such a hold be outlawed? David certainly doesn't think so.

By Craig Peters

THERE'S A DOORWAY in the Reunion Arena in Dallas that leads from one set of dressing rooms to the main arena itself. It's a spot where a wrestler can stand, remain unseen by the fans, and still witness the action that goes on in the wrestling ring in the center of the building.

I was standing in that doorway recently watching a match between David Von Erich and Terry Gordy. David's brother Kevin was standing next to me.

I felt the excitement in the air and the pressure in my ears as thousands of fans screamed in unison. Gordy was on his back, stunned and barely able to move. David's right hand, fingers spread wide, was high in the air and inching closer and closer to Gordy's



Von Erich seems to be admiring his right hand before attaching it to the head of Terry Gordy.

head.

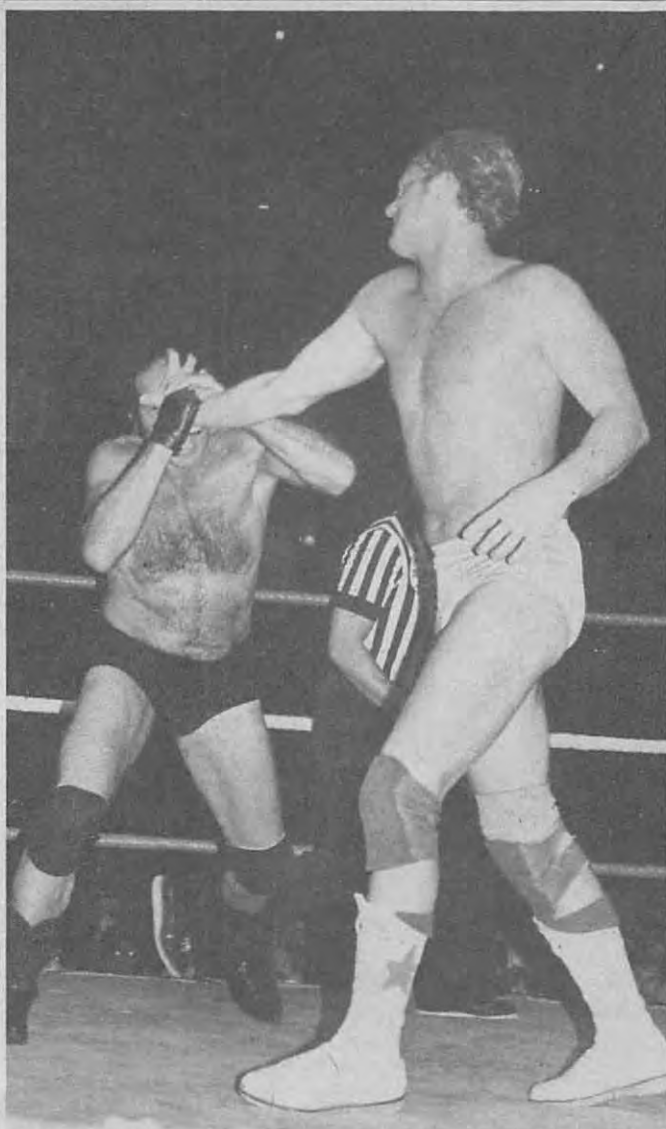
David clamped down the claw and the fans' collective roar became deafening. David looked to the fans in the stands. He was smiling, drinking in their adoration as Gordy squirmed with pain beneath his fingertips. I looked to Kevin standing next to me; he appeared grim.

Kevin and I walked back to his dressing room. He was quiet.

"It's the ban, isn't it?" I asked. Kevin took a magazine off the table and threw it at me.

"You ought to know," he replied, "it's your magazine."

He had thrown a copy of the first issue of our new sister publication, *Wrestling 83*, at me. I knew then what he meant. Turning to page 29, I saw an article entitled



Von Erich sends Jim Garvin stumbling with a kneelift (above left). Though he is an accomplished wrestler who doesn't have to use the claw to be successful, Von Erich will use the hold whenever the opportunity presents itself. Blackjack Lanza is the victim (above right).

"You Decide: Should The Claw-hold Be Banned?"

"Look, this isn't any kind of a binding vote," I responded. "All this does is gauge the fans' opinions regarding the clawhold. You know as well as I do that people have been trying to ban the claw for years, but nothing's ever come of it. All we wanted to do in that article was to find out how the fans felt about the issue."

Kevin grabbed the magazine out of my hands. "What about this?" he asked as he began reading, "The results of our fan poll will be printed in the Spring edition of *Wrestling 84* and will be forwarded to wrestling officials across the country."

"So?"

"So if the vote goes strongly in favor of banning the claw," Kevin said, "these wrestling officials might actually start thinking seriously about a ban."

At that moment, a tired, sweaty, but elated David Von Erich entered the dressing room.

"You looked good, last we saw," Kevin said to him.

"No problem," David replied, "put him away with ease. The ol' claw comes in handy sometimes."

David swabbed his head and body with a towel and noticed the copy of *Wrestling 83* opened to the fan poll page.

"Oh no, not that again," he said. "I can't believe it. Not only

am I hearing a lot about this article, but fans have been coming up to me in the arenas and on the street asking me what I'm going to do if they ban the claw."

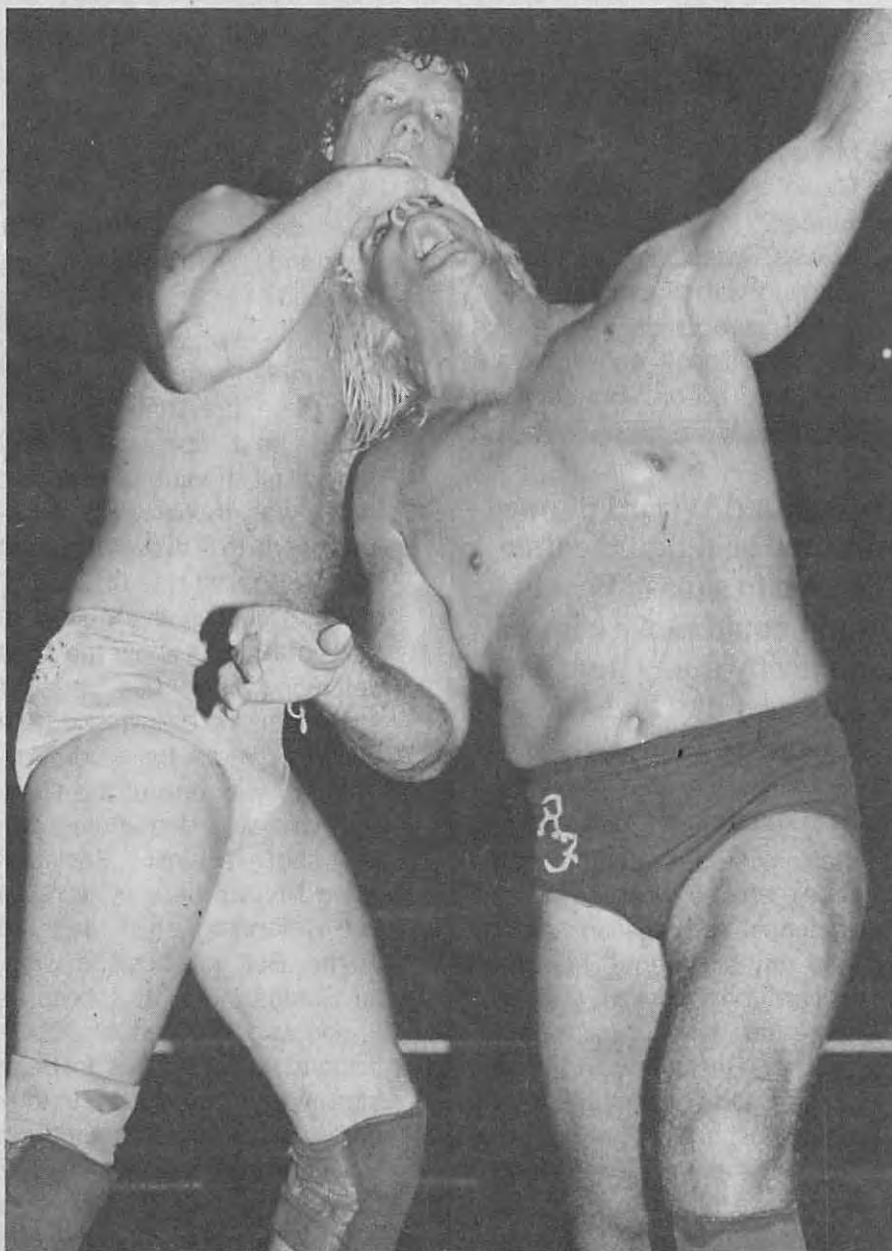
"It's kind of scary," Kevin added. "There's always been talk about a claw ban, but now there's more talk than ever before."

At that moment, an arena official poked his head into the dressing room, informing Kevin that his match was scheduled next. Kevin headed toward the ring as David and I continued to discuss the issue of a claw ban.

"Do you really think the NWA would consider a worldwide ban on the clawhold," I asked, "or would they leave it up to the state athletic



Von Erch clamps a leglock on Garvin (above). Even when David broke the rules (against Ric Flair, below), he still did not abuse the clawhold. His hands will probably never inflict serious injury because he won't let them.



commissions, the same way the piledriver is banned in some states but still legal in others?"

"I don't know if they'll ban it worldwide," David replied, "but I'll quit if they do. The claw is as much a part of me as my name. I use it often, and it's helped me win a lot of matches. You see, some people who use the claw abuse it. They apply it too long and too sadistically, and it winds up doing a lot of damage.

"I don't apply the claw to do damage, I use it to control my opponent, the same way someone else would use a headlock to control an opponent. I'll tell you, I'll be waiting to see how the fans react to this vote. I think a lot of people in wrestling will be waiting to see which way the fans' opinion swings."

I left David's dressing room so he could shower and change. I returned to that doorway and stood alone, watching Kevin Von Erch wrestle Jim Garvin. Above the cheering crowd I could hear a small group of fans chanting, "Use the claw! Use the claw!"

Kevin didn't use the claw in that match, but that was by his own choice. Someday, perhaps sooner than some people would like to think, none of the Von Erchs, or anyone else for that matter, will be able to use the claw in any of their matches. □

HOTSEAT

MASKED SUPERSTAR

"YOU'LL BE SHOCKED TO SEE WHO I REALLY AM!"

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY STU SAKS

FEW MASKED WRESTLERS in the history of the sport have attained the kind of success and reputation that Masked Superstar currently enjoys. He is known and respected throughout the world as one of wrestling's most fearsome competitors. His success has come to him by virtue of his size (nearly 300 pounds) and his tremendous wrestling skills. Although he has an extensive repertoire of scientific wrestling maneuvers, Superstar is not above bending—or breaking—the rules in order to score a victory. Indeed, he thrives on the sport's brutality. Following an extended stay in Texas and a short tour of Canada, Superstar has settled in the Northeast, where he intends to challenge Bob Backlund for his WWF championship. Inside Wrestling Managing Editor Stu Saks spoke with Masked Superstar about his recent activities across the country and about his plans for the immediate future in the WWF.

Q: Why have you decided to compete in the WWF area at this time?

A: Money.

Q: Could you explain that further?

A: I was wrestling in Texas, teaming with Super Destroyer, wrestling against people like Mr. Wrestling II and Junkyard Dog, and so on. Tito Santana

“
The Grand Wizard phoned me and said that the time was ripe to squash Backlund and I could make a lot of money by doing just that. The next day I was on a plane to New York.
”

was in Texas at the same time, and I wrestled a few matches against him. At any rate, my old friend The Grand Wizard phoned me and said that the time was ripe to squash Backlund and that I could make a lot of money by doing just that. The next day my bags were packed and I was on a plane to New York.

Q: You must have a lot of faith in

what the Wizard has to say.

A: He's never lied to me before.

Q: How did he determine that Backlund is ready to be defeated?

A: Well, I've discussed Backlund thoroughly with the Wizard, and there are many ways in which he's ripe for defeat. First of all, I want to point out that I was there when Backlund went to Texas to defend his belt against one of The Samoans. I recall the outcry at the time about how he was defending his title against someone he'd wrestled a dozen or more times already. In fact, I was one of the wrestlers who was demanding a title shot against Backlund when I heard he was going to be defending his belt in Texas. But he chose to wrestle Samoan Afa, so I became a spectator instead of a participant. It turned out to be a blessing. I watched, I took notes, and I saw that although Backlund has a scientific style, he doesn't have a particularly aggressive style. That's one





“

I respect Backlund in some ways—he's held the belt for more than five years—but quite simply, I'm the better wrestler.

”

key to defeating him.

Q: What other ways are there to defeat Backlund?

A: Look, I'm not going to sit here and spell out my strategies to you or to anyone who reads this magazine, and that could include Backlund himself. I will tell you, though, that I respect Backlund in some ways—he's held his belt for more than five years—but quite simply, I'm the better wrestler.

Q: In what way?

A: In every way. Backlund's finishing maneuver is the chicken wing? As far as I'm concerned, the chicken wing is a joke, a hold for amateurs. I use a neckbreaker that would land Backlund in the hospital for weeks, and I've got a cobra clutch that rivals that of Sgt. Slaughter.

Q: Have you thought about wrestling Slaughter, about testing your cobra clutch against his?

A: It's an interesting idea, but I want Backlund first. Besides, the Wizard manages Slaughter also, remember, so that could cause some problems. And the Wizard's assured me that I can make a lot of money with Backlund's belt around my waist. I can always use some extra money, so Back-

have to wait until I defeat Backlund. I promise, you won't have to wait very long.

Q: Fair enough. Let me ask you this: Since you wrestled against Tito Santana in Texas, do you have any plans to wrestle him in the WWF area?

A: No specific plans right now. But after I win the title, if Santana happens to work his way into the number one challenger's position, I'll give him



Masked Superstar clotheslines Tommy Rich during a match in Atlanta. With The Grand Wizard as his manager, Superstar is confident that he can win the WWF title from Bob Backlund and become a wealthy man.

lund's my target for now.

Q: You've stated that should you defeat Backlund, you'll unmask.

A: That's right.

Q: Why?

A: Because I want to see the expressions of surprise on the faces of everyone when they see me unmask. Even you, Stuart, a veteran wrestling reporter with years of experience behind you, you'll be shocked to see who I really am!

Q: Are you someone who made his reputation in the WWF years ago and ...

A: I'm sorry, Stuart, this isn't *What's My Line?* You'll just

a title match. I'll give title matches to every worthy challenger. I'm not going to duck anybody.

Q: What about tag team matches?

A: What about them?

Q: Well, you've been very successful in the past in tag team matches, particularly with Super Destroyer as your partner. Do you have any plans to get together with him and go after the WWF tag team belts?

A: If I'm WWF champion, I can't defend the tag team championship, can I?

Q: I suppose that answers my question.

A: I suppose it does.



For now, Superstar wants his privacy (above). But if he can do to Backlund what he is doing to Jimmy Snuka (below) and emerge with the WWF title, he says he will unmask and reveal to the world his true identity.

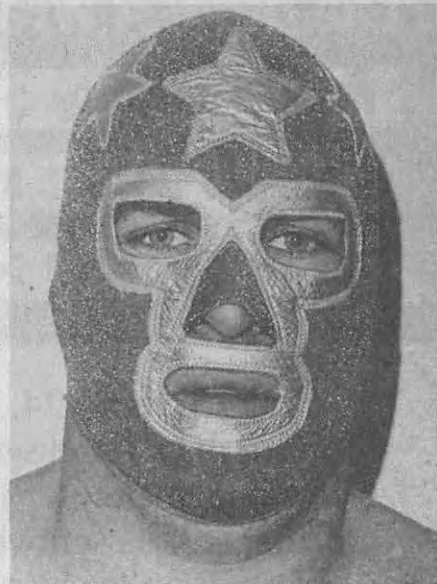


Q: Before we run out of time, I'd like to ask you a few questions about your wrestling style.

A: Be my guest.

Q: You have a great knowledge of scientific maneuvers. Why aren't you strictly a scientific wrestler?

A: Actually, at one time in my career I was. But over the years I've learned that if you want to be successful in professional wrestling, you've got to be versatile. This means knowing the scientific maneuvers, knowing the counters to as many holds as possible, and it also means having the strength and the willingness to tough it out and brawl with



“

At one time in my career I was [a scientific wrestler].

But over the years I've learned that if you want to be successful in professional wrestling, you've got to be versatile.

”

your opponent when necessary. The mixture of science and forcefulness is what has brought me my success over the years.

Q: But you were a pure scientific wrestler at one time?

A: That is correct.

Q: Did you hold any major wrestling titles at the time, or was your scientific phase something you left behind you very early in your career?

A: Nice try, Stuart.

Q: What do you mean?

A: I mean what I said before. You'll be surprised when you learn who I am, as surprised as anyone else. But you're going to have to be patient like everyone else and wait for Backlund to be defeated. That's all I'm able to tell you right now. □

The Biggest Wrestling Television Show Of All Time! **LIVE, FROM GREENSBORO, IT'S THE THANKSGIVING DAY EXTRAVAGANZA**

On November 24, Mid-Atlantic wrestling fans will be celebrating more than Thanksgiving Day. On that night in Greensboro, North Carolina, promoter Jim Crockett will present a wrestling spectacular that will be sent via satellite around the world. *Inside Wrestling* presents an exclusive preview of this all-star evening of mat action

JIM CROCKETT has been working 14-hour days for the last few weeks, but he says it's worth it. The promoter is in the process of putting together a history-making wrestling card that will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, in Greensboro, North Carolina, and seen around the world.

"I thought the phone lines would burn up as I planned this show," Crockett said. "I don't think this much wrestling talent has ever converged on one place before. I put a lot of work into assembling this card, and I did it for the fans. They have been loyal to us for years and they deserve this."

The lineup of stars scheduled to appear at the Coliseum includes NWA World champion Harley Race and

three former holders of that title. Three titles will be on the line, and four brutal feuds should be resolved. So much interest has been generated by this spectacular that Crockett has set up a network of arenas that will show the card live on closed-circuit television via satellite.

"I heard from everyone, from local promoters in the Mid-Atlantic region to promoters in Puerto Rico, Europe, and South America," Crockett said. "They will all see the show live. In Germany, they'll be seeing the main event at about 4:30 a.m., but the promoters are convinced that they'll have full houses." Crockett added that there will be no home TV for the card.

"The fans aren't the only ones who are excited," Crockett said. "I spoke

to a number of wrestlers on the show in the last few days, and they're all looking forward to wrestling for an audience that might approach one million."

For those who can't make it to Greensboro, or one of the closed-circuit outlets, *Inside Wrestling* is gearing up to bring you this historic evening of wrestling action. Senior Editor Bill Apter will head a team of reporters and photographers who will give our readers exclusive coverage of every match.

To help you prepare for this historic evening, our staff has compiled this preview of the card. Be there in person, watch it on closed-circuit television, or look for fall-by-fall coverage in a future edition.



NWA WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

**Harley Race (Champion)
vs.
Ric Flair (Ex-Champion)**

Flair has received a number of rematches in an attempt to regain the title he lost to Race on June 10 in St. Louis. This bout will be contested inside a 15-foot-high steel cage. Flair will pit his youth and desire against the experience and technical skill of Race, the current and seven-time champion.





NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Jack & Jerry Brisco (Champions)

vs.

Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood (Ex-Champions)

The Briscos' change in wrestling philosophy and style shocked wrestling fans but enabled them to capture the tag team belts. Steamboat and Youngblood have pledged that they will regain the belts that they lost to the Brisco on June 18 in Greenville, South Carolina. A stipulation in this match will allow the title to change hands on a disqualification. Therefore, special referee Dusty Rhodes, a former NWA World champion, could have a profound influence on the fate of the title.



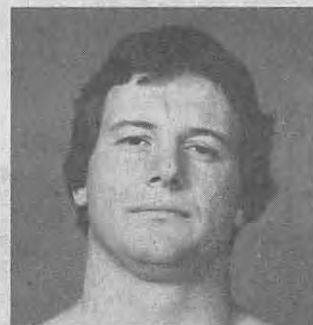
U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Greg Valentine (Champion)

vs.

Roddy Piper (Ex-Champion)

On April 30, Piper lost 75 percent of the hearing in his left ear—and the U.S. championship—when Greg Valentine used the belt to open a huge gash behind Roddy's ear. In this special Dog Collar Match, the two warriors will wear leather collars connected by a 10-foot steel chain. This promises to be a bloody encounter.



The Great Kabuki

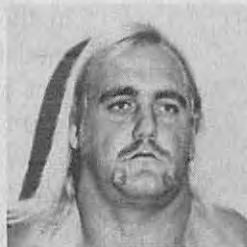
vs.

Charlie Brown

Kabuki's manager, Gary Hart, contends that the masked Brown is in fact "Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant, who lost a Loser Leave Town Match to Kabuki in late August. If Kabuki wins, Brown will be forced to unmask. If Valiant is discovered to be masquerading as Brown, he will be suspended by the NWA for one year.



Wahoo McDaniel & Hulk Hogan



vs.

Dick Slater & Cowboy Bob Orton



Wahoo and Hogan are determined to avenge the brutal beating Slater and Orton inflicted on their friend Ric Flair.

The Assassins



vs.

Bugsy McGraw & Mark Youngblood

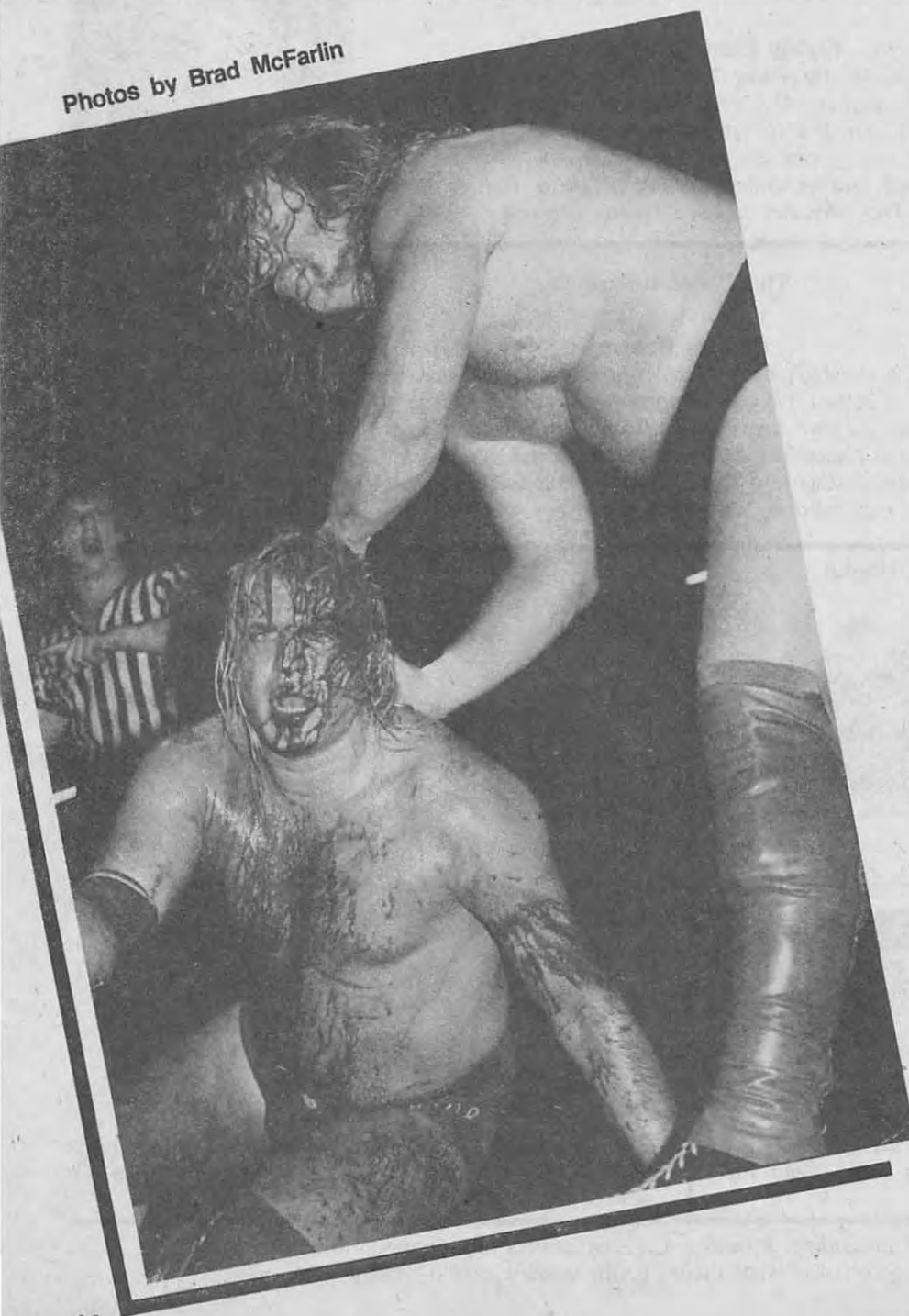


The masked tag team takes on the challenge of the unpredictable McGraw and Jay Youngblood's brother Mark, a newcomer to Mid-Atlantic wrestling.

This is the lineup as of press time. Promoter Crockett assures us he expects to sign even more exciting matches to complete what should be the greatest card of wrestling this year.

Tommy Rich Survives The Wild Bill Irwin Feud: WHY HE WON'T SURVIVE THE NEXT ONE

Photos by Brad McFarlin



THE WTBS SPORTS ARENA: site of the taping of the weekly *World Championship Wrestling* telecast. Tommy Rich is in the ring. Host Gordon Solie is providing the commentary:

"Tommy Rich is a young man with a firm grasp of the basics, but as you can readily see, despite his youth, he already displays the painful scars of his sport."

Dayton, Ohio: site of *World Championship Wrestling* on tour. Tommy Rich is in the ring. Wild Bill Irwin is providing the opposition.

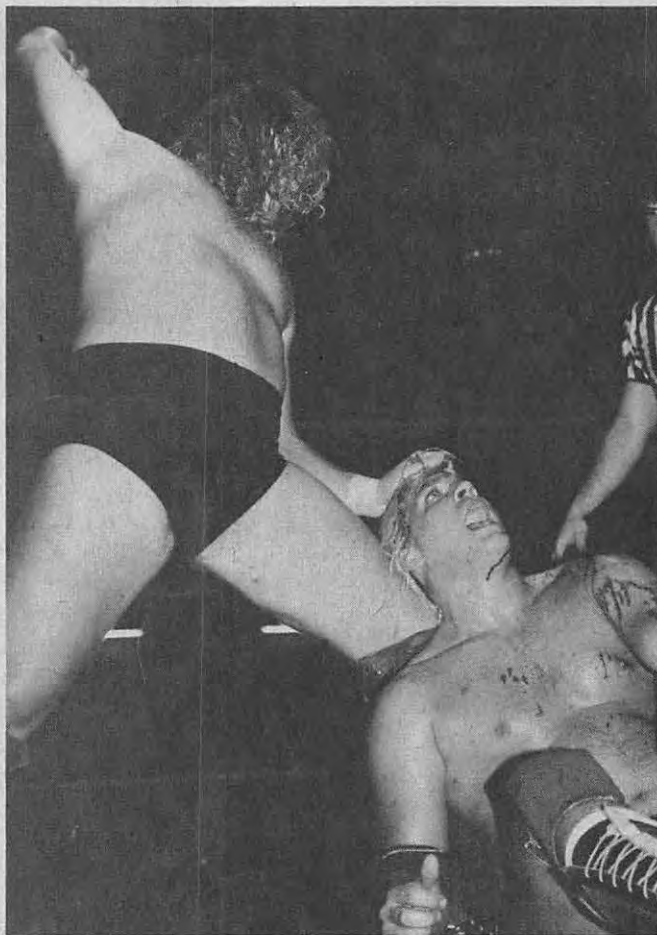
Tommy explodes into action early in the match and tries for the immediate victory. But despite a valiant attempt with a sunset flip, he is unable to achieve a pin.

Irwin strikes back hard. He grabs "Wildfire" by the hair, forces his head back across his knee, and smashes his elbow into Tommy's forehead, opening up a bloody gash above his left eye.

Rich is stunned. Blood is pouring into his eyes as he reels around the ring trying to regain his senses.

Irwin moves in on his opponent. He grabs Tommy by the waist for a takedown that leads to a two-count. "Wildfire" may be dazed, but his instincts for kicking out of a potential pin situation continue to serve him well.

Minutes later, the match is over. The official result—a draw—is un-



Irwin backdrops Rich, who desperately attempts to break his fall by grabbing Wild Bill's waist (above left). Irwin opens up Tommy's forehead with a series of clubbing rights (above right). Wild Bill lifts Rich into a salto (bottom). "Wildfire" is not a pretty sight (opposite page).

Few men in the sport of wrestling are as popular as Tommy "Wildfire" Rich . . . and few men become involved in as many feuds. The past few years have taken a brutal toll on Tommy, and insiders fear that his next feud might well be his last!

important; the effective result is that Tommy Rich has been savaged once again, rendered into a bloody caricature of himself. He is seen staggering on his feet as he winces from the pain, struggling to find his way back to the dressing room where he can cleanse his wounds and repair his damaged ego.

It is a sight that has become all too familiar to fans of Tommy "Wildfire" Rich.

Tommy Rich sits behind a table in a well-decorated office wearing an impeccably tailored three-piece suit. A large bandage on his head serves as a reminder of the latest of



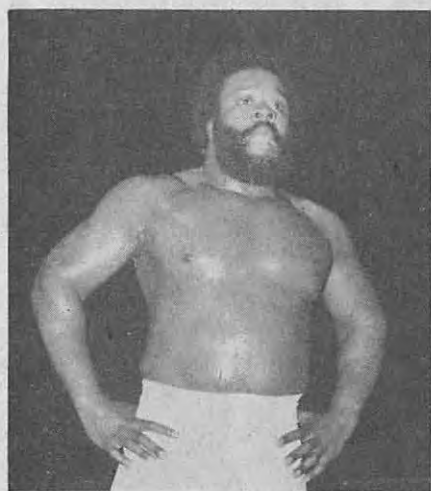
his bloody wars. He is facing several members of the wrestling press. He does not look comfortable.

"Tommy, why do you insist on getting involved in this sport on such a personal level?"

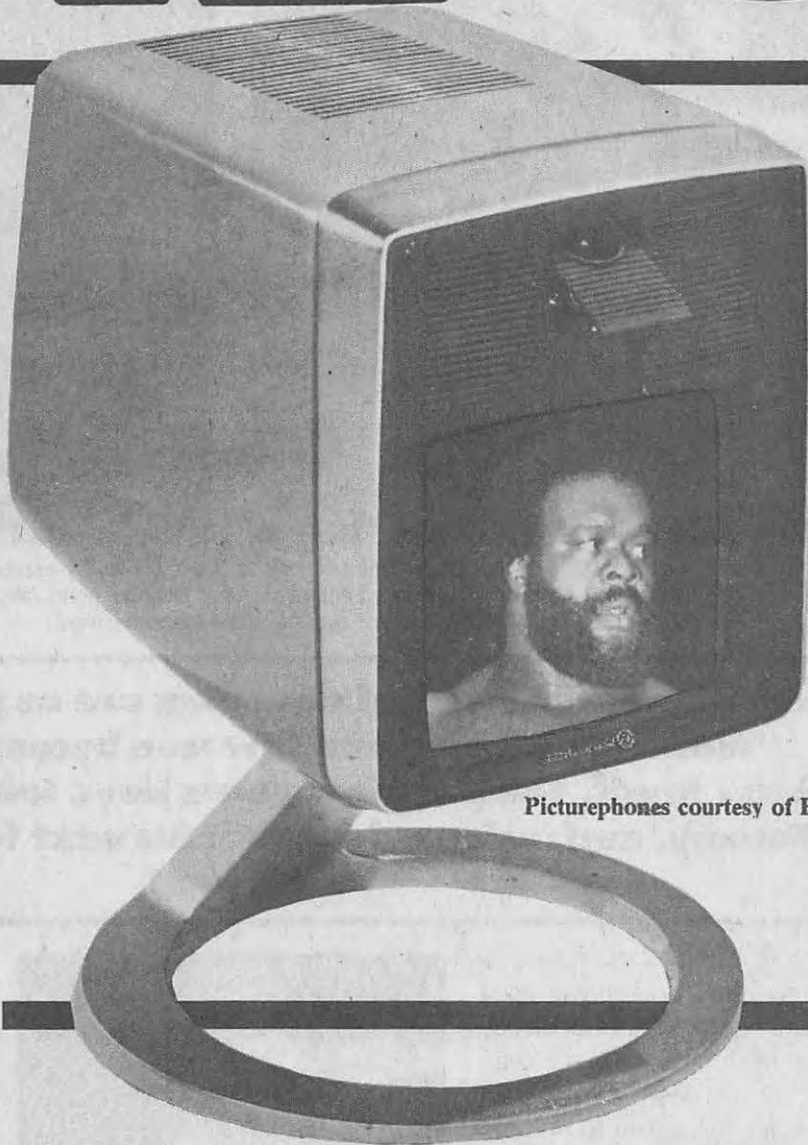
In light of the past two years, the question seemed almost too obvious. First there was the lengthy feud with Buzz Sawyer, a feud that has yet to come to an end. Then Larry Zbyszko entered the area facing off against Rich in a series of battles that have been almost forgotten in the wake of the Zbyszko-Wrestling II wars. Now it's Wild Bill

(Continued on page 64)

ONE ON ONE



JUNKYARD DOG



Picturephones courtesy of Bell Telephone

(The ongoing disagreement between Junkyard Dog and Butch Reed has uniquely personal origins for each man. For Junkyard Dog, the feud is rooted in disappointment: disappointment in a friend whose attitude has turned sour toward both him and the fans. For Butch Reed, the feud is rooted in resentment: resentment at the fact that the fans chose Hacksaw Duggan instead of him to be Junkyard Dog's tag team partner in a special Mid-South tag team match. The disappointment and resentment have fed on each other, causing the feud to grow to proportions that overshadow both individuals. In mid-July in New

Orleans, Butch Reed defeated Junkyard Dog for the North American Heavyweight title. Since that time the hatred has continuously escalated. Inside Wrestling thought the timing was perfect to bring these men together . . . One on One.)

The telephone wires will heat up every month when two top wrestlers rage and argue. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, a chance for you to see what happens when two wrestlers look each other in the eyes and go One On One

NONE



Simulated photos



BUTCH REED

JUNKYARD DOG:

You know, Butch, I hope you settle down and come to your senses pretty soon, you've got a lot to offer to the fans if you'd just . . .

BUTCH REED:

Bull! What the hell did the fans ever give me?

JD: They gave you a reputation years ago when you tried to make a name for yourself,

and you know that better than I do. If it wasn't for them, you'd be nowhere in this sport, and that's something you ought to remember. Shame of shames is for a man to have so short a memory that he forgets who took him to where he is today.

BR: They gave me a reputation, all right, they stuck me back behind Duggan. Man, as far as

they're concerned, I'm trash in their eyes.

JD: If they think that, brother, it's only because of your actions over the past couple of months.

BR: Listen, Dog, my actions over the past months have been better for my career than at any other time in my life. My reputation has grown by leaps and bounds. I took your precious title away from you, didn't I? That should be worth something! How does it feel to be number two, Dog?

JD: Number one, number two, number nine, it doesn't matter to me. The ratings don't matter to me. I think about one thing most of all, and that's the fans. They're the ones who've gotten me where I am today, and it's for them that I'll win back the North Ameri-

(Continued on page 48)



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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from page 47)

can title. I may not have the belt right now, but I know that those fans are cheering me harder than ever before. They're supporting me, they want me to get that belt back from you, and with their help I'll do it.

BR: Not a chance in the world.

JD: What's the matter with you? You think you're invulnerable? You think you'll last forever? No way, Reed, none of us lasts forever. This North American title will be here long after we're both dead and buried. You're looking for the short-term happiness, you want all the glory and honor right away, and right now maybe you have it. But what else have you got? Have you got friends you can trust? Can you go to sleep at night? Can you live with yourself for what you've done? Do you respect

yourself?

BR: Get off it, Dog, you make it sound like I murdered some crippled old lady somewhere. What did I do that was so damn horrible? I decided that I didn't need you and I didn't need the fans in order to win a title. So what happened? I got rid of you, I got rid of the fans, and I won the title. It's simple.

JD: Right, but what about sleeping at night?

BR: I sleep fine.

JD: You shouldn't, considering how you stabbed me in the back!

BR: Say what?

JD: You heard me!

BR: What the hell are you talking about?

JD: I'm talking about how I brought you into the Mid-South area, how I introduced you to the fans here.



Butch Reed used to be adored by the fans and the feeling was mutual (above). A kneeling Junkyard Dog and a standing Reed go into a blow-for-blow exchange (opposite page).



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BR: You're crazy.

JD: Crazy? Remember what I said before about short memories? You mean to tell me you don't remember the training sessions we had together, how we spent time together in the gym, how I prepared you for every man in this area? You're going to tell me that you don't remember these things?

BR: You think because of a couple of hours in the gym I owe you anything?

JD: No, you don't owe me anything, but you should sit back and think about whether you owe yourself anything.

BR: You talk slick, Dog, and you may say you've got the fans on your side, but I've got the belt around my waist, and as far as I'm concerned, that's all that matters right now.

JD: Too bad, Butch, you could be so much better than you are now.

BR: I already am, Dog, only you're too stupid to realize it.

JD: If you ask me, brother, you're being the stupid one. I think the fans will agree with me on that. ☐

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

November 1983 issue of *Inside Wrestling*.

I've never been so disgusted in my life. This guy has the nerve to say that my main man, Junkyard Dog, stole a North American title match against Bob Roop from Ted "The Big Cheese" DiBiase. How utterly ridiculous! Then to top things off, Mr. Goings says JYD pushed Mr. Olympia aside when Mr. Wrestling II came on the scene. Oh, but please don't stop there, go one step further: JYD supposedly did the same thing to Butch Reed.

Each of these men turned his back on Junkyard Dog. Jealousy and bitterness got the best of them. They couldn't face the fact that JYD is the number one wrestler around today, or the fact that the fans love him so dearly.

Mr. Goings and everyone else who feels as he does should reevaluate the facts: Junkyard Dog is the best wrestler in the world, and that's a fact!

DORIS ANDERSON
Greenville, MS

WHY ALLOW CHEATING?

Why is there so much cheating allowed in wrestling? It seems to me that referees and officials don't care if one wrestler badly hurts another wrestler, or even comes close to killing him!

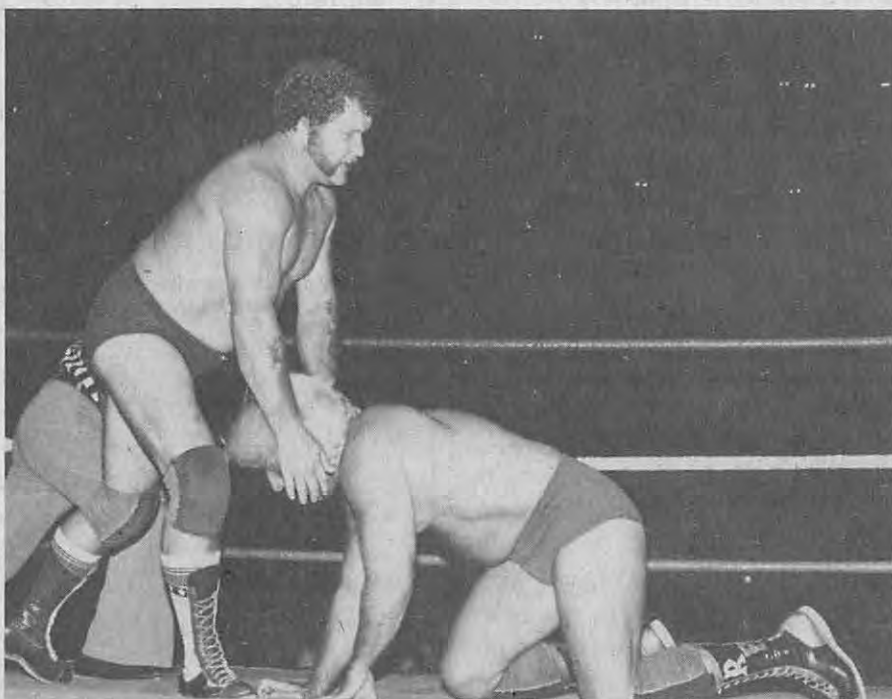
We all know the same rules apply to all wrestlers, but the rules are selectively enforced. I think this has got to stop. If a wrestler breaks the rules, he should be fined up to \$1,000 and given a one-year suspension. Two referees should be assigned to every match, and there should be two or three referees outside the ring to keep other wrestlers and managers from interfering in matches.

If these rules were enforced with every wrestler, we would soon see sportsmanship and fairness in the sport.

RECY GODFREY
Alturas, CA

BROCK'S BUNK

How can Matt Brock take credit for predicting Ric Flair's downfall? Ever since Flair won the belt from



Harley Race won the NWA World heavyweight championship from Ric Flair in June, but reader Michael Janusz predicts the "Nature Boy" will win it back within six months.

Dusty Rhodes in 1981, Brock and the other self-proclaimed "experts" had predicted that his defeat was just around the corner.

In an article about Manny Fernandez in the September 1982 issue of your sister publication *The Wrestler*, Brock says, "Ric Flair is spending too much time in the fast lane. I've come out in print against that, and have predicted that by December 31, he will have lost the title."

Well, Matt, I've got a prediction of my own. I predict that Flair will regain the NWA World belt within six months, unless he gets involved in petty feuds, as have former champions Jack Brisco, Dory Funk Jr., Tommy Rich, and Dusty Rhodes.

MICHAEL JANUSZ
Buffalo, NY

SAD DAY FOR PATERA

An open letter to Ken Patera:

It was a sad day in your career



Ken Patera, writes Ed Wallace, should be ashamed of himself for "selling out" to Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie.

when you decided to sell out and join up with Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie.

What have you gained? Money, that's about it. But money is soon
(Continued on page 52)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 51)

spent, and you're left with empty hands again.

What have you lost? Respect from the fans, and I would be willing to bet respect from yourself as well. How can you sleep at night knowing that you're tied in with a scum like Al-Kaissie? How can you look at yourself in the mirror and feel good about yourself? My guess is that you can't, which is why you're growing a beard to cover your face.

You have too much talent, Ken, too much skill. You're wasting it all by getting involved with Al-Kaissie. Leave him now, before it's too late. Become independent again, the way you were before—when we all respected you.

Please, Ken, you have everything it takes to be champion and win the respect and admiration of the world. Don't throw it all away for a six-figure bankbook. You're better than that . . . at least you could be.

ED WALLACE
Chicago

FATHERS AND SONS

With everyone screaming about who's feuding with whom, and let's ban the claw, and why doesn't David Von Erich spank Sunshine

again, I must say that I often look to Florida for a sense of sanity in professional wrestling.

It's reassuring to see two excellent father and son combinations there: Blackjack Mulligan and Barry Windham and Angelo Mosca and Angelo Mosca Jr.

I've had the pleasure of seeing all four men in action at various times over the past year, and I am very impressed with them all. They all have extensive wrestling ability, and they all can rise to the occasion whether their opponents prefer to brawl or wrestle scientifically.

Most of all, I'm impressed by the way they stick together. Wrestling is a sport of violent emotions, and it's easy for a father and a son who both wrestle to wind up on opposite sides of the rulebook—or maybe the ring. Barry and Blackjack have had their problems, but they seem to have come through them very well indeed. As for the Moscas, they appear to be inseparable.

I salute all four men. They are wrestlers of skill and expertise. They are men to look up to and admire. They deserve the respect of all fans everywhere.

CARLA BOSSON
Tampa, FL □



The father-son combination of Blackjack Mulligan and Barry Windham adds to the stability of the Florida wrestling scene, according to reader Carla Bosson.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

BACK ISSUES



PWI/July 80

Color Starshot: The Sheik



PWI/Aug 80

Color Starshot: Koloff & Smirnoff



PWI/Jan 81

Color Poster: Bruno Sammartino



PWI/May 81

Color Poster: Mr. Wrestling II



PWI/Oct 81

Color Poster: Ted DiBiase



PWI/Jan 82

Color Poster: Magnificent Muraco



PWI/May 82

Color Poster: Ric Flair



PWI/June 82

Color Poster: Nick Bockwinkel



PWI/Aug 82

Color Poster: Dino Bravo



PWI/Sept 82

Color Poster: Blackjack Mulligan Jr.



PWI/Oct 82

Color Poster: Jerry Lawler



PWI/Dec 82

Color Poster: Rick Martel



PWI/Jan 83

Color Poster: Ken Patera



PWI/Feb 83

Color Poster: Ivan Putski



PWI/Mar 83

Color Poster: Andre The Giant



PWI/Apr 83

Color Poster: Superstar Graham



PWI/Ann Spr 83

Special 4 pg. Color Section



PWI/May 83

Color Poster: Jimmy Valiant



PWI/June 83

Color Poster: Cowboy Bob Orton



PWI/July 83

Color Poster: Ivan Koloff



PWI/Aug 83

Color Poster: Larry Zbyszko



PWI/Sept 83

Color Poster: Kevin Von Erich



PWI/Ann Sum 83

4 Color Pinups: Snuka, Rich, Hogan, Flair



PWI/Oct 83

Color Poster: Junkyard Dog



PWI/Nov 83

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



When Backlund traveled to Florida to wrestle Bobby Duncum recently, Tito Santana and other WWF scientific wrestlers became very upset. They shouldn't have been upset at Backlund, though. If he had his way, he'd wrestle every deserving challenger.

fied—to accept.

For 5½ years, Backlund has defended the title that had been entrusted to him. He has defeated at least 20 wrestlers whose names will be remembered as being among the roughest athletes this sport has ever produced. He's been a fair champion, an honest champion, an active champion. He's done all that he could to maintain the honor of the WWF title. But now, because of circumstances that he does not have the power to control, the prestige of the WWF championship is at its lowest point ever.

The WWF has come under heavy criticism recently for its adopted policy of only offering title matches to men who choose to break the rules. The sport of wrestling, as everyone is certainly aware, thrives when wrestlers of opposing styles are matched up. Wrestling is very similar to boxing in that respect. A fight between a slick boxer and a brawler is always going to be more pleasing to view than a fight between two slick boxers. In wrestling, a match between a scientific wrestler and a rule-

breaker is going to create more fan interest than a match between two scientific wrestlers. The formula has passed the test of time, WWF promoters feel, and there is no need to tamper with it.

Ask Tito Santana if there is any need to tamper with it. But make sure that you have at least an hour to kill. Tito has a very definite opinion on the WWF's discriminatory title-match policy. He has publicly taken his anger out on Backlund, something for which he is very sorry. As Backlund's friend, he should know that Bob is not at fault.

"It upsets me more than anything to hear a man like Tito blame me because he can't get a title shot," Backlund says. "Why would anyone think that I would prefer to step into the ring against a guy like Masked Superstar rather than wrestle a true sportsman like Tito Santana? I wrestle whomever the WWF deems the top challenger. I am not permitted voluntary defenses. That's the way it is in the WWF."

Although he won't go on the

record as saying it, Backlund must be deeply hurt by all the criticism directed at his title lately. *Inside Wrestling*, which had always viewed the WWF title on an equal level with the NWA and AWA titles, now recognizes the WWF championship as no more prestigious than a strong regional championship. And the mail we've received has been overwhelmingly in favor of our stance.



Backlund successfully defends his title, as he's done for the past 5½ years. Have recent developments changed Backlund's attitude about wrestling?

It was a difficult stand to take. The credibility of an innocent champion would inevitably be hurt, and that was not our intention. Bob Backlund should not have to suffer for a policy over which he has no control. As the WWF title suffers in the wake of public criticism, so does its proud borrower. Still, he is as gracious to us as he's ever been. "I understand where you people are coming from," the champion says. "I don't agree with your policy, but I understand why you feel you have to do what you're doing. You've got your job to do and I've got mine."

Bob Backlund has the talent to go on doing his job for another 5½ years. But as he defends his title, look at his face and eyes. And tell me if he's the same idealistic Bob Backlund of 5½ years ago. □

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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from page 18)



turned on them. DiBiase had no idea what he was getting into. The man doesn't belong in that select society that bravely faces the world and dares to be different. For some men, being called rulebreaker is a liberating experience. For DiBiase, it's an ordeal.

Recently, he returned to Georgia. When he left before, he left as one of the most beloved grapplers the state has ever known. Now he returned a hated and notorious rulebreaker. Some men would delight in this sign of success. Not DiBiase.

Early one afternoon, I accompanied DiBiase to The Omni in Atlanta. He walked silently down the aisles, his eyes staring at nothing, or perhaps the past. He got to the ring, grabbed a rope, and hoisted himself up. He then walked to the middle of the ring and stood gazing at the empty seats.

"I once owned this place," he said in a strange voice. He wasn't bragging; it sounded more like a man reminiscing about a beloved departed relative. "The fans would stand and cheer whenever I appeared. It wasn't a one-way thing, either. I literally risked my life to please them. I wanted to be everything they could hope for."

"Then I left. Then my life changed. Now when I enter an arena, they boo. They hate my guts. You know, I've seen guys in this business who feed on being despised. It makes them stronger. They wrestle better when somebody calls them a bum. I'm not like that. I don't want to be hated."

"You can think I'm weak. I don't care. I can't go back being a fan favorite. I know that. It used to eat me up inside. Well, whatever it is that



In happier times, DiBiase would be able to utilize the fans' encouragement to break loose from Ken Patera (above). Ted's feud with Junkyard Dog, which was highlighted by a bloody Dog Collar Match (top), has had a drastic effect on his life.

eats a person up has had its fill. There's nothing left to consume. I'm empty. I walk into an arena and feel absolutely nothing.

"You may hear me say I hate this guy or that guy or that the fans make me sick. I may believe it at the moment, but later I know better. I can't hate anymore. I feel nothing.

"That's what makes me dangerous. I don't give a damn. Win or lose, what the hell? Give me your best, pal. Nothing scares me.

"People get all hot and bothered about this glove I'm wearing. Now I say it's to protect me from an injury. They say it's a loaded glove. Let them say anything they want. Couldn't matter less to me. They can't make me take it off, so what do I care if they scream themselves blue in the face? What do I care if they call me a cheater?

"There have been times when I thought about hanging it up, quitting this sport and getting a decent job. Maybe even changing my name so I wouldn't run into people who remembered and hated Ted DiBiase. Then I think, what else could I do? No, wrestling is the most lucrative business I could ever be involved with. So I'm hated. No law says a man has to be loved.

"I've had the admiration, the love of friends and strangers. Most people never get that no matter how long they live. I've been luckier than most. Now my luck has turned. That happens. There are millions of people whose luck is a lot worse than mine.

"Yeah, that's how I want to remember my career: It could have been a lot worse. I could have been Abdullah the Butcher."

DiBiase smiled mirthlessly and got down from the ring. He walked by me and left the arena. I didn't follow. There was nothing more either of us could say. DiBiase doesn't have what it takes to laugh at those who call him rulebreaker. You can only pity him. That's not true. If you're his opponent, you'd better fear him.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 20)

makes him stand out from other refs. He's always on the spot."

McGowan admired Patrick for different reasons. "Nick is a more imposing physical presence," Scrappy said. "I think he asserts more authority than I do. I'd put him in before me in a grudge match."

"I remember watching Nick work Rich's matches with Magnificent Muraco," McGowan recalled. "Rich and Muraco are hardly friends. Those matches were emotional, brutal, and pretty bloody."



Road Warrior Hawk tries to press Jerry Brisco. McGowan has a knack for being in the proper position to count a pin or spot an illegal hold.

"I'll never forget a Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer match I worked," McGowan recalled. "At the end of the match, I was bloodier than either of them. Thank God it wasn't my blood all over my shirt. You might call it gross, but for Nick and me, it's part of the job."

All McGowan and Patrick ask is that they be allowed to do their jobs. There is one aspect of the game they find particularly annoying: the assigning of "special referees."

"We're professionals," Patrick said. "Who can do our job better than we can? If you want order in the ring, we'll give you order in the ring. I respect a man like Earnie Shavers. I watched him box on a number of occasions. But I wouldn't go into the ring with Larry Holmes, and I don't think he should put on a ref's shirt."

The couple who were talking to Whatley and Rich were leaving the restaurant. They looked toward our table for a moment and, after a couple of whispers to each other, they walked past.

Patrick turned to McGowan and said, "Didn't you . . .?"

"Aren't you . . .?" McGowan said.

You'd never know they were TV stars. □



Patrick orders Tommy Rich to keep his distance from the helplessly tangled Magnificent Muraco. Nick is a physically imposing official.

Muraco will do anything to win, and when Tommy gets fired up, he's as bad as the worst rule-breaker. I might have gotten buried in some of those matches. Nick did an outstanding job. He let them know that he was the boss in the ring."

Both have worked their share of tough matches, but they regard it as one of the hazards of their occupation. "If you think some of the matches get pretty gory from the audience's viewpoint," Patrick said, "you should see them the way we do. Pretty disgusting stuff."

SPORTS REVIEW

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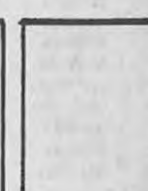
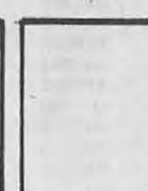
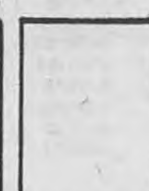
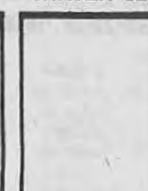
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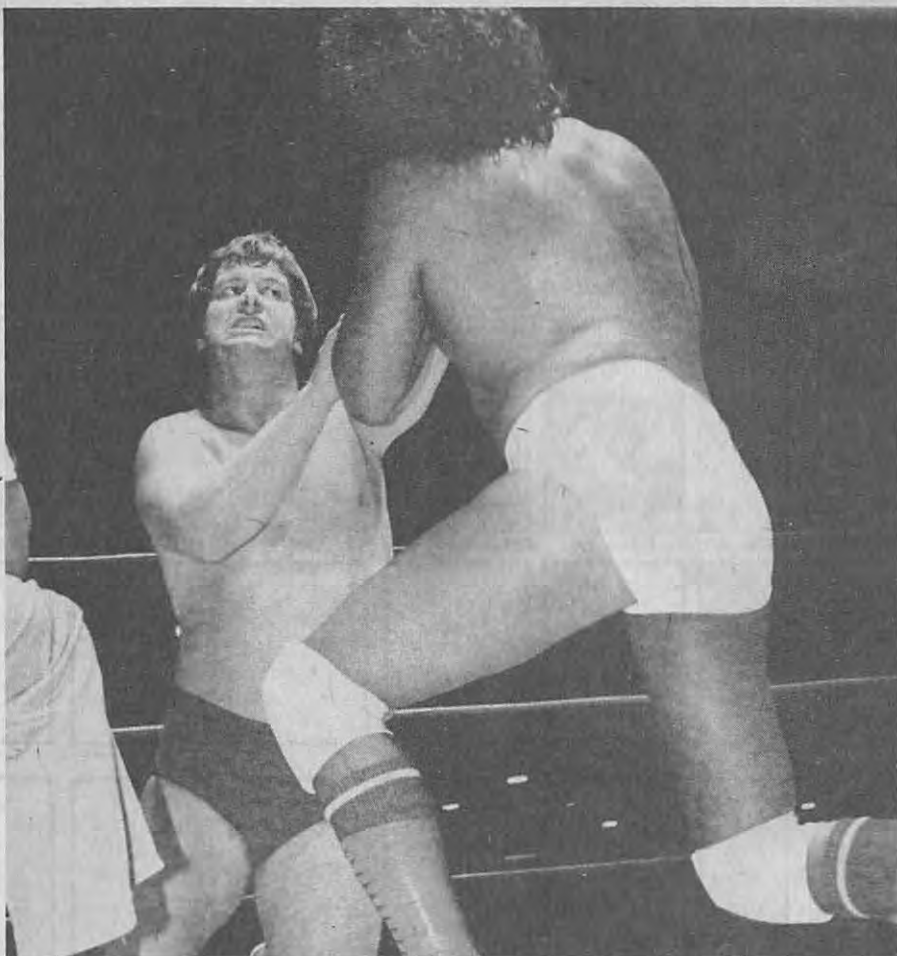
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RODDY PIPER

(Continued from page 31)



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you've never broken a rule before."

Even Piper had to smile then. Nobody had ever accused him of being the most scrupulous of scientific wrestlers. Though he'd never beaten up anybody's brother as a favor, he battered enough opponents in his time to know how it's done. Roddy then stared into Youngblood's eyes. What he saw was a mixture of fear, pleading, and hope. How could Piper say no to all that?

Five minutes later, with Youngblood at his side, Piper called the Des Moines promoter. He requested a match against Mark Romero. Piper also said, "Tell the young punk I'm coming for blood." When Youngblood heard that, he clenched his fists but said nothing.

The day Piper left, Youngblood took him to the airport. As they

By the end of the match, Piper came to respect Romero's strength—and everything else about the man.

pulled up to the terminal, Youngblood asked, "Do you think I'm doing the right thing? Is there another way?"

"As crazy as it sounds," Piper replied, "I think you're doing the right thing. If you got the kid out here and he wasn't ready, his career could be ruined. I may rough him up, but I won't ruin him. Take it easy. The worst that can happen is that he'll have to be Mark Romero for a couple more years. See you soon."

When Piper arrived in Des Moines, wrestling fans were ready. Any enemy of Mark Romero is no friend of theirs. They started booing when Roddy entered the arena. They only stopped to cheer Mark as he approached the ring. Piper was im-

pressed by the fans' admiration for Mark, but he still wanted to see for himself how good he was. After all, whatever Roddy did to Mark this night was for his own good.

It didn't take Roddy long to realize he didn't have to take it easy on the kid. Mark defended himself brilliantly. Roddy began using some of his more complex moves, trying to confound Mark. The youngster became confused, but not for long, and managed to handle himself well. It was a heartwarming exhibition of wrestling coming-of-age.

Only afterward could Piper appreciate the heartwarming aspects. During the bout, he knew he was in a war. Romero kept getting better as the crowds cheered. The kid wasn't reckless, but he was willing to take risks. Piper struggled to stay in the match. Within three minutes, Piper stopped thinking of Mark as Jay Youngblood's brother. Romero was an opponent he'd have to struggle to defeat.

When the match finally ended in a draw, the crowd gave Romero a standing ovation. Mark couldn't understand, though, why Piper was also smiling. Roddy didn't tell him, figuring this was something his brother would want to do. After the match, Roddy picked up his paycheck and flew home. Youngblood was waiting at the airport.

"Is he good?" Jay asked as a way of greeting.

Piper smiled and reported, "The kid's the real thing. You'll have to work with him a little, but he should make you a fine tag team partner. Y'know, he could definitely call himself Youngblood without anyone thinking he's trying to cash in on your popularity. He's good on his own."

Youngblood smiled. He rushed Piper home. He was anxious to make a phone call to his brother. ☐

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TOMMY RICH VS. BILL IRWIN

(Continued from page 45)



because I take my wrestling seriously."

"But by getting so personally involved with these men, aren't you hurting yourself more than any of these men can hurt you?"

Tommy was silent.

"Tommy?"

"I don't know what else I can do," Rich answered in a quiet, almost ashamed tone of voice.

"It's affecting his wrestling, you can see it more and more each day," noted *Inside Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter. "Time was when Rich was considered a top contender for the NWA World title. He wore that belt once, and although his title reign didn't last long, peo-



Irwin declares himself the victor, not realizing Rich's foot is draped across the ropes (top). A severely injured Rich staggers back to the dressing room (above). Tommy has survived his feud with Irwin, but the expense has been great.

Irwin who has become the object of Tommy's attention.

"It just seems to happen to me, I really don't have too much control over it," Tommy answered. "You see, wrestling is my life. These guys, like Zbyszko, Irwin, and especially Sawyer, they mess around with my life, they threaten me and claim they'll put me out of wrestling, and that's something I won't let anyone do. Yeah, I take my matches personally, but that's only

ple were hoping for Tommy to bounce back and regain the title. Now he's not even considered the top contender for the National title.

Everyone at the *Inside Wrestling* editorial meeting nodded his head in agreement. Assistant Editor Joe Bua added some thoughts of his own:

"What I can't believe is how battered he's become over the past year. The Sawyer feud by itself has taken a lot out of him. Actually, I

think he's suffered as much psychological damage as he's suffered physical damage. I don't know how much longer he can go on.

"His feud with Bill Irwin hasn't done much to reverse this trend in his career," Bua added. "As far as I'm concerned, this is the end of the road for Rich."

Bua's pronouncement was met with affirmative votes from the entire staff.

"He's got to stop this bloody feuding now or else it could ruin his career for good," Bua continued. "Actually, it may already be too late for him to repair the damage, but I hope he tries.

"He's too hurt, he's too battered, he's too weak from these feuds," Bua said. "One more Buzz Sawyer in his life will destroy him. It might be Ted DiBiase, it might be Greg Valentine, it might even be someone like King Kong Bundy.

"It doesn't matter who it is," Bua concluded. "One more feud and it's over for Tommy Rich." □

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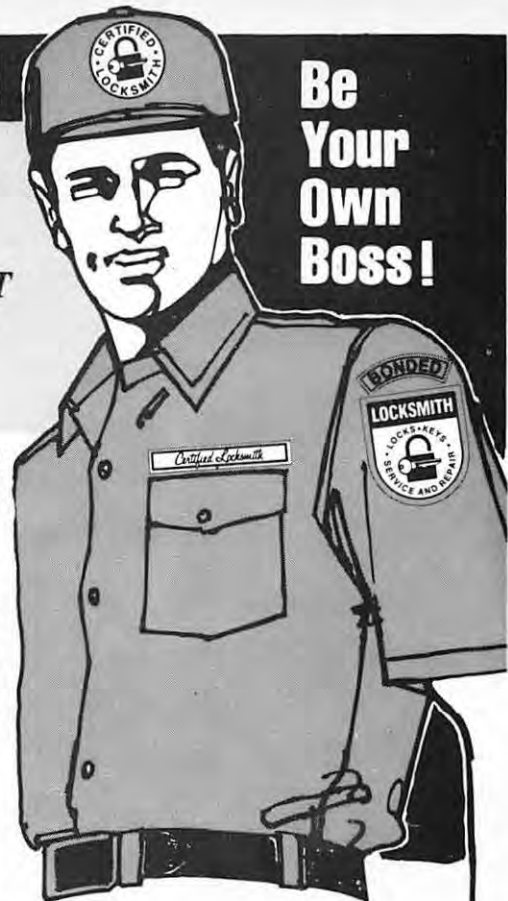


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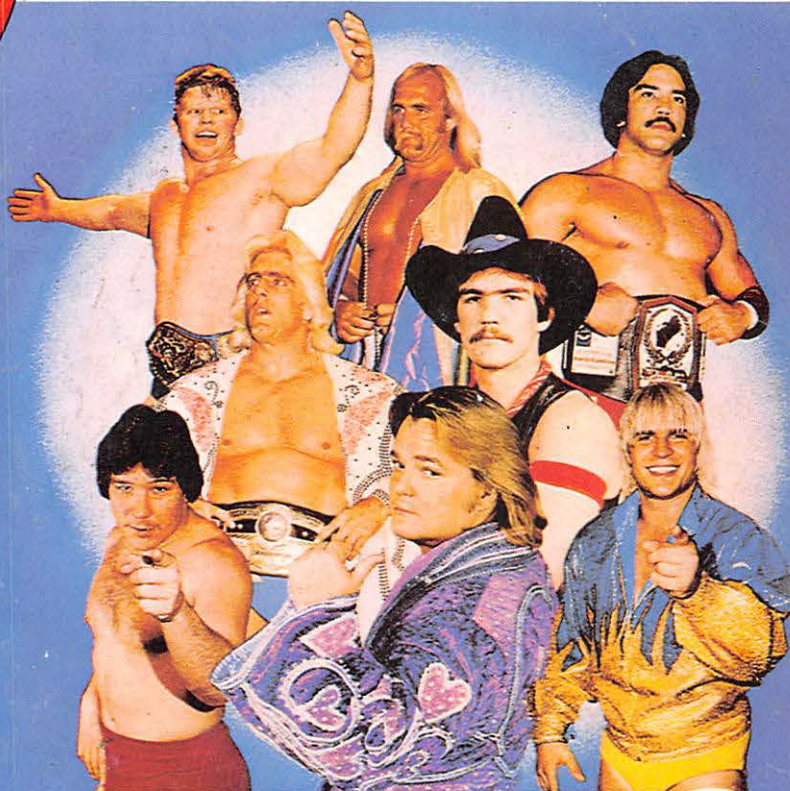
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